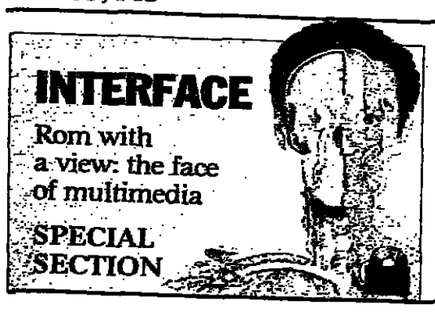
THE TIMES

30p

No. 65,443 WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 6 1995



INTERFACE
Rom with a view: the face of multimedia
SPECIAL SECTION



Ashes to ashes
Health warnings leave young smokers cold
PAGE 17

Top writers in The Times
Simon Jenkins, P18
Alan Coren, P18
Simon Barnes, P42
Richard Evans, P43



Diana v the diplomat
Why roving could be her ruin
PAGE 5

MEDIA & MARKETING
Goodbye to Good Morning
PAGE 23

'Third of schools failing pupils'

Blair attack on teachers angers unions

BY JOHN O'LEARY AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

TONY BLAIR received a storm of criticism from teachers and Labour leftwingers yesterday when he launched his party's most dramatic attack on standards in state education.

Outlining Labour's plans for a "quantum leap" in achievement, Mr Blair claimed that 30 per cent of schools were failing their pupils. "There will be zero tolerance of failure from any government I lead," he said.

Mr Blair cited an international study placing Britain 35th in the "world education league": "It is not good enough for our country. It is a disaster for British firms trying to compete abroad. And it is a tragedy for all those talented children in Britain who are not achieving their full potential."

Teachers' unions, which had supported many of the proposed reforms, were stung by the severity of the attack. David Hart, the general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, described the claim that 30 per cent of schools were failing as "outrageous".

The National Union of Teachers, having accepted the need for incompetent staff to be sacked, issued a second statement after Mr Blair's comments had been reported. Doug McAvoy, the general secretary, said: "Yet again politicians want to introduce proposals on the back of false claims of mass failure."

Inspectors consider schools to be failing when they are not meeting minimum standards



Blair: pledges "zero tolerance" of failure

of education. Only 2 per cent have fallen into this category. Labour officials said Mr Blair was using the term loosely, to refer to underperforming schools, but ministers seized on the claim to question the authority of Labour's programme.

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, said: "If Mr Blair cannot get this simple fact right, what on Earth are we to make of anything else he says?" She offered Labour "one cheer" for a late conversion to Conservative policies.

The 38-page package of measures had already run into allegations of "teacher-bashing" from secondary-school heads, and alarmed left-wing MPs. Under the plans, Labour would speed up dismissal procedures for incompetent staff and close the worst schools, reopening them under new leadership. Other key proposals would require schools to set three-year targets for improvement, and to use appraisal to identify weak teachers.

Members of the Campaign Group of left-wing MPs said the attempt to focus attention on poor teachers would undermine the confidence and esteem of the profession. "Blair is in danger of losing valuable support from the teaching unions which have done a lot to put their house in order," one backbencher said.

Jeremy Corbyn, MP for Islington North, criticised plans to appoint higher-grade teachers to set an example to colleagues. "We should be the party of universal comprehensive education and recognise that teachers require support rather than spending on an elitist system of super-teacher," he said.

"I would be much happier if we were committed to reintroduction of education authorities taking control of all state schools rather than increasing centralisation of education and relying on questionable league tables."

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, denied that Labour had turned against teachers. But he added: "If you travelled on a high-speed train and you discovered that the person driving it wasn't capable, you would want to ensure that the person concerned was retrained or found an alternative job, or you wouldn't travel on the train."

Carrot and stick, page 9
Janet Daley, page 18
Leading article, page 19



TIM GRAHAM

The Duchess of York wearing the jewellery given to her by the Queen on her marriage

British and US police begin the search for royal jewels

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT AND ALAN HAMILTON

POLICE on both sides of the Atlantic were trying last night to establish exactly how thieves stole £60,000 in jewellery belonging to the Duchess of York from an 18-inch long black holdall as she returned from America.

The theft of the diamond necklace and bracelet, a gift from the Queen, was discovered when the Duchess's lady-in-waiting opened the bag on her return to the Duchess's Berkshire home shortly before midnight. She told police that the bag was unlocked and had travelled in the hold.

British Airways and Heathrow police immediately began an investigation into one of the most embarrassing thefts in the history of commercial aviation. Scotland Yard yesterday confirmed that jewellery belonging to the Duchess had been stolen in transit. The Duchess's office confirmed that the jewellery had been insured.

The bracelet and necklace are part of a set, which includes earrings and a ring, given by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh to the Duke and Duchess of York on their marriage in 1986. The pieces were bought from Garrard, the Crown jeweller, and were said to be compensation for the fact that the Duchess would not inherit any historic gems.

The Duchess was returning from a four-day private visit to publicise American editions of her *Budgie The Helicopter* books, and to attend a White House reception on Sunday night for winners of Kennedy Centre awards, hosted by President Clinton and his wife.

She had taken the jewellery with the intention of wearing it at the White House function, but in the event wore only the earrings. "It would be quite normal for her to take the entire set on an overseas engagement if she had a black-tie function on her programme," a spokeswoman said last night. She added that the jewellery had sentimental value as it had been a gift from the Queen.

The Duchess left Washington Dulles airport for New York on Monday, carrying the jewels in tissue paper in her overnight bag. She and her lady-in-waiting, Jane Dunn-Butler, were travelling together under assumed names, but returned to London on separate flights. Among the bags which Mrs Dunn-Butler decided to check into the hold was the bag containing the jewels.



Dunn-Butler: checked diamonds into the hold

Airline staff remained baffled over the decision to consign to the cargo bay of a jumbo jet an unlocked canvas holdall containing such valuable items.

A spokeswoman for the Duchess said last night that she is not blaming her lady-in-waiting. "There is categorically no blame attached to her ... Jane is obviously very upset, but the Duchess feels she has quite a good chance of getting the jewellery back."

Three killed in blizzard crash

Three people were killed when their car was crushed by an articulated lorry during a blizzard in Nottinghamshire. Freezing temperatures brought chaos to many areas of the country; up to five inches of snow fell in Kent, cutting off the M20.

The cold spell is expected to last for the rest of the week. The snow was blamed on an easterly airstream originating in the steppes of Siberia and picking up moisture over the North Sea ..... Page 2

Mortgage hope

Homeowners who fall into arrears with their mortgages may now have a chance of keeping their homes rather than being forced out, after a ruling by the Court of Appeal. A test case was brought by a married couple with five children from Wiltshire after a county court judge had refused to give them more time to pay back their arrears ..... Page 2

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Austria Sch 40; Belgium B Frs 80; Canada $3.25; Canaries Pes 325; Cyprus C£1.20; Denmark Dkr 18.00; Finland Fmk 17.00; France F 14.00; Germany DM 4.50; Gibraltar 90p; Greece Dr 450; Netherlands Fl 4.50; Irish Republic 45p; Italy L 4,500; Luxembourg Lf 60; Madeira Esc 350; Malta 45c; Morocco Dir 27.00; Norway Kr 20.00; Portugal con Esc 350; Spain Pts 325; Sweden Skr 18.00; Switzerland S. Frs 4.00; Tunisia Din 2.200; USA $3.50.

French strike turns bitter as Juppé refuses to yield

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THOUSANDS of striking workers marched through the streets of France yesterday as the Government stuck to its guns in the escalating battle over welfare reform.

Addressing parliament for the first time since a crippling transport strike began 13 days ago, Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, issued a vigorous defence of his plans to overhaul the indebted social security system, the centrepiece of a government austerity drive to ensure France qualifies for European monetary union.

"Yes, France can and must embark boldly on the path of reform which has been put off for too long," M Juppe declared. "I will maintain my reform projects." He said that just 210,000 out of more than two million public sector workers had answered yesterday's strike call.

But M Juppé, due to address the nation last night, held out an olive branch to the strikers by indicating that pension benefits, the most controversial of his planned reforms, were open to negotiation.

Union heads, however, repeated demands for the entire reforms to be scrapped. Marc Blondel, leader of the powerful Force Ouvrière union, said he was prepared to "fight to the bitter end".

In freezing snow showers, thousands of workers marked another day of action with angry and sometimes violent street demonstrations. More than 30,000 protesters marched through Paris, at the end of which riot police clashed with demonstrators who overturned cars, burnt telephone kiosks and attacked shops.

A no-confidence motion, tabled by the opposition Socialist Party, failed as expected last night, but the wave of street protests yesterday was as bitter as the Arctic weather.

But French financial markets rallied as investors drew confidence from the Government's refusal to back down.

Fight to the finish, page 14
Power export, page 25
Philip Bassett, page 29

Julia Somerville to face no charges

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

JULIA SOMERVILLE, the ITN newsreader who was questioned over 28 photographs of a naked child, was told last night that neither she nor her partner would face charges.

Miss Somerville, 48, and Jeremy Dixon, 56, an architect, were arrested at the beginning of November. The couple, from Muswell Hill in north London, were questioned for seven hours about the photographs after a Boots film technician became concerned at the number of shots of a naked seven-year-old girl in a bath and alerted police. Last night, Miss Somerville, who is due to present the ITN lunchtime news today, learnt that on the advice of the Crown Prosecution Service police were not to proceed with the investigation.

In a statement released through an ITN spokeswoman she said: "Today's statement by the police confirms the truth of my original statement at the start of this ordeal. There has been a deplorable lack of privacy ... however, I have received a tremendous amount of support from my friends and colleagues and from the public."

A spokesman for Scotland Yard said the case had been thoroughly investigated by experienced officers in the Child Pornography and Paedophilia Unit as well as officers from a child protection team.



Novice treasure hunter turns up hoard of Roman gold

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A MAGNIFICENT hoard of 126 Roman gold coins, including some from the reign of Nero, has been unearthed in an Oxfordshire field by a man learning to use a metal-detector. He had taken up the hobby only a month earlier.

"This is one of the richest finds of Roman gold ever made in this country," said Roger Bland, a curator at the British Museum. "To find just one gold coin is very unusual." The museum said it was impossible to value the hoard at this stage.

The coins cover roughly a century from AD64, and were buried in a pot. It is believed they were buried shortly before the death of Antoninus Pius, (138-161) an emperor who has been overshadowed by Hadrian, his predecessor, and Marcus Aurelius, his successor.

"Our picture of Britain then is muddled," Dr Bland said. "This sort of hoard is another piece in the jigsaw."

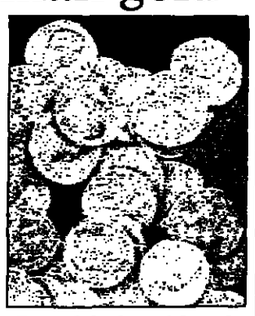
The evidence suggests it was a time of unrest, when people were likely to bury valuables. About 20 years before Antoninus's death, the Romans had invaded southern Scotland. The hoard's value then was about 12 times a legionnaire's annual salary.

An inquest into whether the hoard should be declared treasure trove, and therefore the property of the Crown, will be held in the Oxford Coroner's Court on Friday.

An Oxford man who wants to remain anonymous found the coins in March. He had no idea what they were and took them to Bonhams auction house which contacted the British Museum. The 126 coins, known as "aurei", are about the size of a 1p piece, but thicker. One is a previously unknown example, minted in the reign of Vespasian (69-79).

To be declared treasure trove, an object has to be made of gold or silver, buried with the intention of being recovered and the original owner must be untraceable.

The finder will be entitled to a reward, the market value fixed by an independent committee. The British Museum gets first refusal on purchase.



Part of the hoard found in an Oxfordshire field

TV & RADIO 46, 47	LETTERS 19	ARTS 36-38	SPORT 41-46, 48
WEATHER 24	OBITUARIES 21	CHESS & BRIDGE 44	MEDIA 23
CROSSWORDS 24, 48	SIMON JENKINS 18	COURT & SOCIAL 20	LAW REPORT 22

Prescott kept from Commons sense by uncommon language

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Have you ever watched a disaster movie? Have you seen the look on the pilot's face as the plane spirals, engines aflame, towards the sea? Gripping the levers he fights the urge to panic. Every facial muscle is tight, hysteria close to the surface.

This was the look on the faces of the *Hansard* reporters as John Prescott's Budget speech gathered speed yesterday afternoon. Wrestling with the controls of their stenograph machines, two ladies from the *Official Report* stared forward, white-faced, as their mission to turn chaos into prose disintegrated. Who says it's not glam to be a Gallery reporter? *Mission impossible! Join Hansard and tame Prescott's grammar!*

Down at the dispatch box, the deputy leader of the Labour Party was knocking seven bells out of the English language. The ladies tugged at their headsets, but it was no good: there was nothing wrong with the technology. The output was true to the input. The input was Prescott. It was without form, and void. Their task — to make this intelligible — was hopeless. Even Pauline Prescott in the Special Gallery looked stunned. He cannot, surely, talk like this at breakfast?

Faster and faster Prescott went, misplaced participles flying like stones from the wheels of his wagon. At breakneck speed he took a tight corner from the 10p tax band into the private finance initiative, scattering nouns and adjectives as he went. When he ran out of verbs he ploughed forward on nouns alone, whole strings of them: "Holland, France, Belgium, Scandinavia . . .": laundry lists of facts, but with no grammatical line on which to peg them. In moments of passion he started throwing in the definite article randomly: "from the fourteenth to the eighteenth in the world competitiveness league".

From time to time an intervening Tory backbencher would try to block his path like a cow in the road. Carnage! Losing a fender here, a spoke, a headlamp there, losing coherence all down the line, Mr Prescott gabbled on. Sometimes, as if to tease, he would return momentarily to his written text. From his oratory a flash of lucidity would shimmer for an instant, mocking reason as mirage mocks the eye, then dissolve as Prescott re-entered the stream of his own consciousness.

Once he hit a tree. The tree came in the form of Michael Heseltine, who repeated a question from Alex Salmond, the Scottish Nationalist leader, about VAT on fuel, to which Mr Prescott had no idea of the answer. Wallop! The great man came to a shuddering halt.

For a second, silence — a scratching of the head and the hiss of escaping steam. Gordon Brown whispered something. Prescott threw the wagon into reverse, disengaged from the tree, then, with a crash of gears — "I keep getting explanations as to why it should be. I think I stick to my argument . . ." — plunged senselessly on.

The notes on the dispatch box in front of him appeared to include a selection of figures. Mr Prescott threw these into his discourse with wild abandon, muddling his billions with his millions. A passage followed concerning the Tories' wasted opportunity in Europe. He listed the advantages we had thrown away. First among these, he said, was the predominance of English as an international medium of communication. What we had to share, he said, was "a common language".

The *Hansard* reporters tugged again at their headsets. But they had heard right.

Landmark ruling on arrears

Judges ease threat of repossession for mortgage debts

By Frances Gibb and Anne Ashworth

HOMEOWNERS who fall into arrears with their mortgages may have a better chance of keeping their homes after a landmark Court of Appeal ruling yesterday.

The judges ruled that homeowners be allowed to spread the arrears over the remaining period of their mortgage, instead of facing repossession because they cannot afford to meet repayments.

In a test case brought by a married couple with five children, the three judges unanimously agreed that the "logic and spirit of the law" was that, in calculating a "reasonable period" for the payment of arrears, the full term of the mortgage should be the starting point.

Christina Norgan, who has lived with her family in a period farmhouse at Tisbury, Wiltshire, since 1974, appealed after a county court judge refused to give more than four years to pay off arrears even though the mortgage had 13 years to run.

The appeal judges sent Mrs Norgan's case back to the county court to work out a new repayment scheme over the remaining 13 years of the loan. They also ordered the building society to pay the costs of the case. The ruling makes formal the process of capitalisation, where the arrears are added to the original loan. It may prompt many of the thousands of homeowners fighting repossession to take their building societies to court to secure a similar arrangement.

Sue Anderson, of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, said procedures similar to those set out in the court's guidelines were already being followed at many county courts and many building societies had voluntary arrangements. "It is perfectly acceptable that people should have a fair chance to get back on to their feet."

But she expressed concern that the ruling could tempt borrowers to take "a mortgage payments holiday" in the knowledge that if their case ever did go to court they would be given a long period to pay off their arrears. "In circumstances where it is reasonable for people to pay off their arrears more quickly, then this should be done."

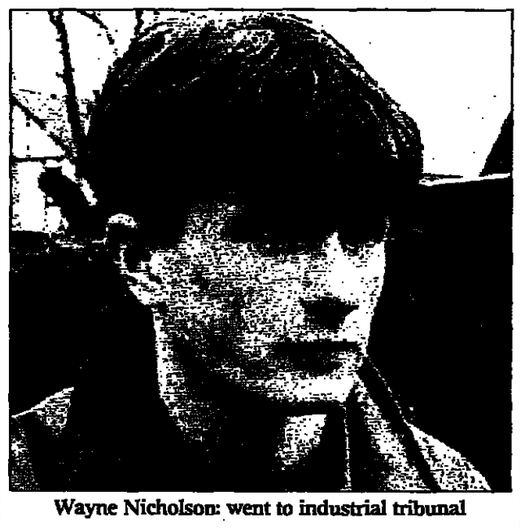
Keith Tondeur of Credit Action, a debt counselling agency, said: "This should stop certain lenders putting pressure on borrowers to produce the money to repay arrears within a short space of time."

Mrs Norgan fell into arrears with the interest payments on her £90,000 mortgage with Guardian Building Society after her husband's business ran into difficulties. Under the terms of the mortgage the whole debt was repayable immediately.

By April 1990, when the Guardian was taken over by the Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society, she owed about £7,000. The Cheltenham obtained a county court order for possession, but execution was suspended as Mrs Norgan made "strenuous efforts" to pay off her arrears.

In September 1993 a district judge refused to block the possession order any longer, and that decision was upheld by Judge O'Malley at Shaftesbury County Court in June last year.

Lord Justice Waite said Judge O'Malley, who estimated Mrs Norgan's arrears at £20,000, decided that "a period of two to four years is the maximum that will normally be allowed" for clearing arrears. He had decided it would be impossible for the Norgans to meet the target and the Cheltenham was therefore entitled to have its possession order enforced, unless it decided to give the family more time.



Wayne Nicholson: went to industrial tribunal

Victory for paper boy who rounded on sack

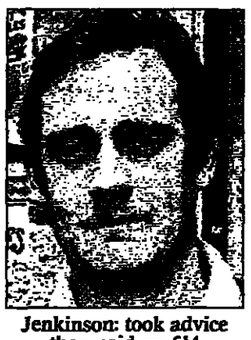
A PAPER boy who complained to an industrial tribunal after he was sacked has won two weeks' wages in an out-of-court settlement.

Wayne Nicolson, 15, of Poulton-le-Fylde, near Blackpool, was dismissed after being told his work was not up to scratch. He asked the tribunal officials to postpone a hearing for school exams.

The newsagent, Andrew Jenkinson, 28, took legal advice from the National Federation of Retail Newsagents and then agreed to pay the teenager £14 in settlement.

A tribunals official said: "Under European law, so long as someone has two years' service, and a contract — even though it's a verbal one — they have the right to go to a tribunal to claim for unfair dismissal, sex or race discrimination, or redress under the Wages Act." The teenager said: "I thought I had to do it to show them that they can't just treat me like this."

Mr Jenkinson said Wayne's mistakes were costing him about £5 a week.



Jenkinson: took advice then paid up £14

Trimble rejects invitation to talks

By Nicholas Watt
Ireland Correspondent

DAVID TRIMBLE, leader of the Ulster Unionists, has written to John Major and the Irish Government to reject their invitations to hold talks under the Anglo-Irish "twin-track" process.

In a curt letter to Dick Spring, Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Trimble said that he did not endorse the Anglo-Irish communiqué published last Tuesday and he would not negotiate the internal affairs of Northern Ireland with a foreign Government.

He added: "I am always ready to hear any proposals you may have for normalising relations between the Republic of Ireland and this part of the United Kingdom, ie the removal of your illegal, aggressive territorial claim and the replacement of the 1985 agreement with one consistent with modern international practice."

To Mr Major, he said he would be prepared to discuss economic matters and his party's plans to establish an elected assembly in Northern Ireland.

Mr Trimble's letters came after Mr Major and Mr Bruton launched a new phase of preparatory talks and an international commission to examine proposals for decommissioning terrorist arms. The two Governments followed up the summit by issuing invitations to all political parties in Northern Ireland to attend separate talks to lay the basis for all-party negotiations.

Appeal judges back Howard on jail term

Michael Howard won an important legal victory yesterday when the Court of Appeal backed his powers to increase the minimum jail sentence that murderers must serve in prison. Three judges overturned a High Court judgment and ruled that the Home Secretary was right to increase from 15 to 20 years the recommended term which a double killer must serve.

Mr Howard had decided that John Pierson, who shot his mother and father while they were asleep in their farmhouse near Oswestry, Shropshire, in 1984, should serve longer for killings described as "horrifying and apparently motiveless". Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, said that Mr Howard's decision "could not be stigmatised as irrational".

Rail secrecy criticised

Railtrack was criticised by the Health and Safety Executive last summer for withholding reports on two near-collisions from government safety inspectors. The reports were eventually leaked and led to Railtrack managers being admonished. Alan Cooksey, a deputy chief inspector of railways, said yesterday: "We used the opportunity to remind Railtrack that it was not appropriate to keep embarrassing information from us."

Postal staff back strike

Postal workers at the Central London sorting office in Victoria voted yesterday for strike action over a dispute involving the disciplining of a colleague. The Communication Workers' Union is demanding an independent inquiry into the incident. The sorting office covers Buckingham Palace and the Houses of Parliament, as well as most main government offices. Post Office managers have said that deliveries to those addresses will not be affected.

Judicial overhaul

Plans for the biggest overhaul of the training of judges were outlined yesterday to bring judicial training into the 21st century. In what may be seen as a first step towards a Judicial Training College, the instruction of 60,000 judges and magistrates in England and Wales is to be put on a professional, independent footing. The Judicial Studies Board will be given its own budget and be hived off from the Lord Chancellor's Department.

Cancer victim sacked

A pregnant woman recovering from cancer treatment came home from hospital to find she had been sacked from her £20,000-a-year job. Carole Coe, 30, an accountant from Tameside, Greater Manchester, is taking Tee-Gee Snacks of Leeds to an industrial tribunal next week and claiming £200,000 for sex discrimination. Miss Coe, who gave birth to a healthy daughter, had to sell her home and move into a rented flat. She now lives on benefits.

Fire brigade to cut jobs

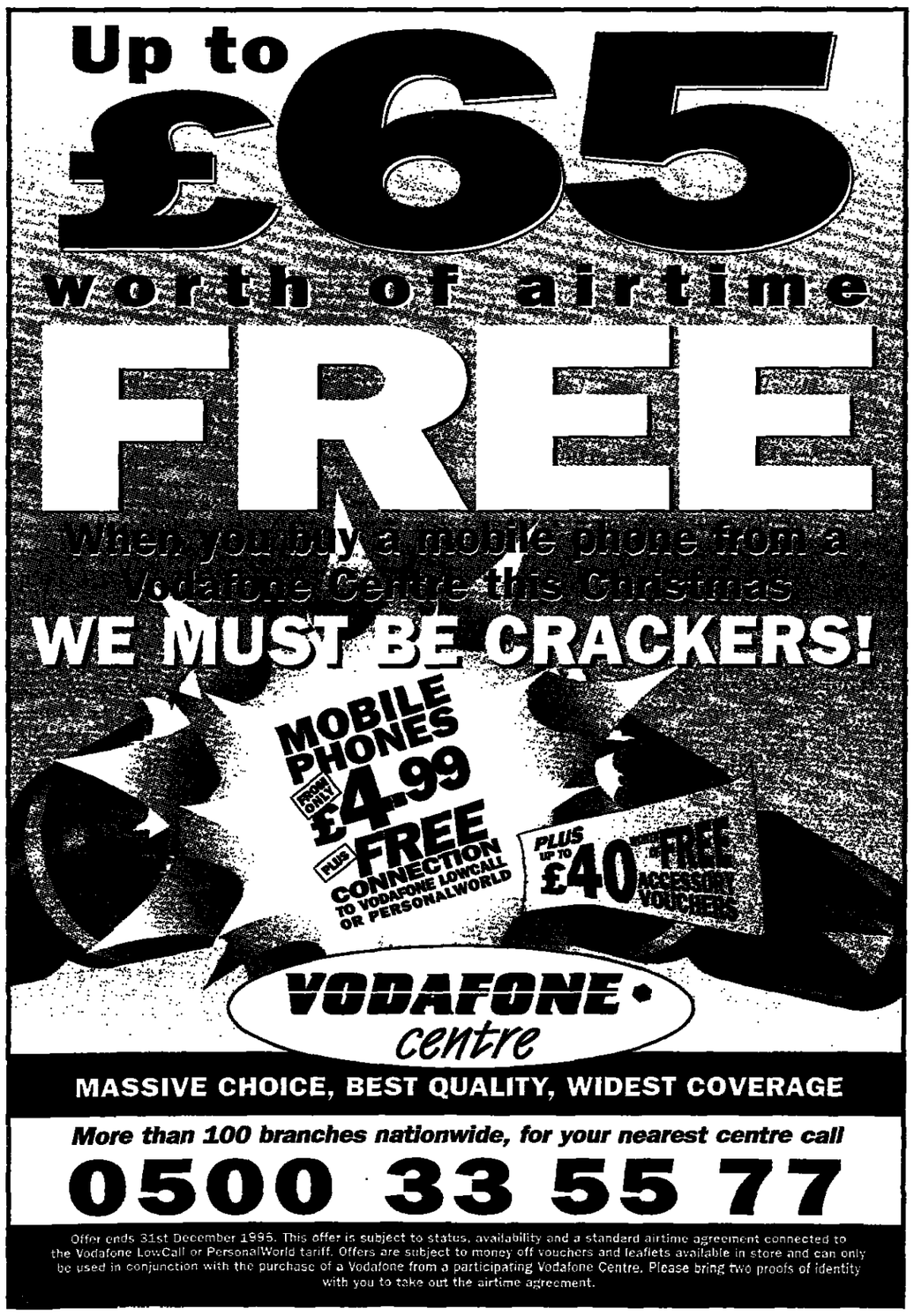
The London Fire Brigade is considering cutting more than 600 jobs and closing four fire stations because of cuts in government funding. A brigade spokesman said yesterday that the 645 posts would be lost by natural wastage over 25 months and a recruitment freeze. There would be no compulsory redundancies. The four stations facing closure are Shooters Hill and Downham in southeast London and Manchester Square and Barbican in central London.

Head takes sick leave

The headmistress of a London comprehensive where pupils rebelled over the dismissal of a popular black teacher is to take extended leave because of ill-health. Westminster Education Authority said Kathleen Wood, head teacher at Pimlico School, would be absent for at least three months. Pupils went on strike last week over the dismissal of Winston Manyon, a languages teacher, who had allegedly criticised the school management.

MP's 'kiss of fire'

Fleur Adcock, the poet who dreamt of kissing John Prescott, has already shared a moment of passion with one of his parliamentary colleagues. In her poem *A Political Kiss* she says she has never kissed an MP. But Austin Mitchell, MP for Great Grimsby, said yesterday that he had a "long passionate, unforgettable embrace" with Adcock 35 years ago when they were at university in New Zealand. It was "a kiss of fire", he said.



Three killed in blizzard crash

By Dominic Kennedy and Stephen Farrell

THREE people were killed in snowstorms in Nottinghamshire and the M20 in Kent was cut off last night as blizzards and freezing temperatures brought chaos to large areas of the country.

The three victims, an adult, a teenager and child, died when their car was crushed by a lorry during a blizzard. The Nissan Micra collided with the articulated truck on the A6097 Oxton to Lowdham. Police described the weather conditions as "very bad".

Sections of the coast-bound M20 were closed at 6pm as up to five inches of snow fell in the north and west of Kent, drifting across the carriageway. Police cut the speed limit to 30mph on the M2.

In East Sussex, three people were hurt when an ambulance skidded, overturned and crashed into a telegraph pole near Hastings. An elderly woman stroke patient was among the injured. A police helicopter was unable to take off because of blizzards.

Weather forecasters predicted freezing temperatures for the rest of the week. The Met Office feared temperatures in west Wales could fall as low as -10C (14F) last night. Motorists were urged to reduce speed, allow extra time for journeys, use dipped headlights, to keep their distance and to check tyres.

Snow fell over much of the country, with heavy showers on the east coast becoming light flurries as they headed west. East Anglia was another black spot. Colchester in Essex had 1in of snow. Areas of west Suffolk were described as bleak.

There was heavy snow around Lincoln and at Gatwick, where the airport enforced low visibility procedures. Visibility was reduced to 50ft in Cambridgeshire, where there were problems on the M11 and A14. Roads in Norfolk were grim and driving conditions were difficult in Surrey.

The odds against a white Christmas were reduced to 5-1 by Ladbrokes after a record wager of £3,500 was placed in Acton, west London.

Forecast, page 24

10,000 'grey suits' to go in NHS cuts

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Correspondent

AT LEAST 10,000 management jobs in the NHS are to be cut as part of an efficiency drive aimed at saving almost £300 million over the next two years, Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, announced yesterday. The savings will be used to expand clinical services, which will mean "more white coats and fewer grey suits", Mr Dorrell said.

The Health Secretary published the first league tables of senior management costs showing wide variations in the amount spent on management by health authorities and trusts across the country.

Trusts providing acute services with the lowest management costs are the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, London, and the Freeman Hospital, Newcastle on Tyne, at 2.1 per cent of income. Among the highest is the Weston Park Hospital, Sheffield, at 6 per cent.

One trust, the Royal London Homoeopathic Hospital, had management costs amounting to 10.8 per cent of income but Mr Dorrell said it was one of the smallest and "very atypical". The health authority league table shows Huntingdon with the highest management cost per head of population in 1994-95 at £10.27.

The average spent on senior management, defined as posts carrying salaries of £20,000 and above excluding clinical posts, was 3.9 per cent.

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هكذا من الأصل

Thousands of burglary suspects held in nationwide raids

BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

TWELVE thousand police officers arrested more than 2,000 burglary suspects yesterday in the biggest co-ordinated crime operation mounted in Britain. Three thousand addresses were searched by officers from 40 forces but David Blakey, Chief Constable of West Mercia and co-ordinator of Operation Christmas Cracker, denied that police had staged a huge publicity stunt.

There were 2,334 arrests and Mr Blakey predicted the figures would exceed 3,000. He acknowledged that many suspects would have to be freed on bail. Other officers privately admit the operation will generate enormous publicity for the police but argue that similar operations to clamp down on criminals have scared them and curtailed their activities.

Two of the largest forces, Greater Manchester and South Yorkshire, decided not to join yesterday's swoops. Cheshire and Staffordshire also did not take part. Mr Blakey said every chief constable had to consider his resources and priorities but the four forces had helped their neighbours to prepare for the operation.

Nearly 10 per cent of the entire police service in England and Wales took part in Christmas Cracker to coincide with the main season for domestic burglary. Mr Blakey could not put a cost on the operation and said many officers would have been on duty anyway. Property worth at least £1.2 million has been recovered as well as guns, drugs, counterfeit cash, fake passports and driving documents.

Within hours police reported the recovery of stolen property including three vanloads of power tools in Merseyside worth £14,000, a cabin cruiser worth £6,000 found by Thames Valley Police and electrical equipment worth £119,000 in London. Other finds included counterfeit video games worth £88,000 discovered by Essex officers and computer equipment worth £100,000 found in North Yorkshire.

Two stolen iguanas were found in Redditch by West Mercia officers. One was taken from a pet centre in Hereford a month ago.

Police in Dorset also reported finding a cache of heroin and, in Nottinghamshire and North Wales, officers recovered firearms. In South Wales, police seized counterfeit cash and in Cambridgeshire a burglary suspect identified through DNA was arrested. In Devon, officers found a 16-year-old missing person.

In London, Scotland Yard reported that 343 suspects had been arrested in connection with burglary or receiving stolen goods. More than 2,000 officers raided 600 addresses in the capital and found stolen cars, jewellery, and false driving licences and passports.

In the operation in Lewisham 58 officers arrested 13 people but only one was charged. Detective Sergeant Mike Mansell, who organised the early-morning raids said: "The number of arrests is a good return for the number of police involved. One man will be charged with five burglaries and three hours of police time is peanuts. It also shows the public in Lewisham that we are doing something about burglary."

Mr Blakey described the operation as a "big bang" against a group of criminals who caused anguish and trauma for the public. It had been planned for nearly six months. He said house burglaries traditionally rose as the days became shorter towards the end of the year and thieves preyed on homes where Christmas presents were on display. In one raid yesterday, his officers found stolen Christmas presents for children.

Mr Blakey was confident the operation would curtail the seasonal burglary rise. It was intended to show that the police were fighting burglary and make clear to the burglars that they were at risk. "Today's offensive will be a welcome Christmas present to the people of this country."

Other operations against burglary suspects would continue. He said opinion polls showed 80 per cent of the public feared burglary and there were 680,000 cases last year, when police cleared up 22 per cent of the recorded crimes.

Nun had child by man preaching 'religion without bad bits'

Unholy fraudster trapped after 10 years as a priest

BY KATE ALDERSON

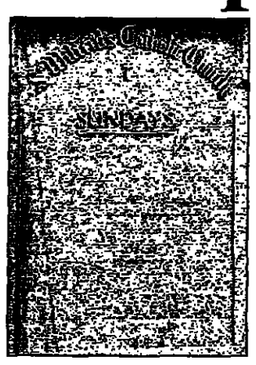
A BOGUS priest accused of conning believers across Europe was facing extradition from Britain last night. Angelo Malannino pretended to be a millionaire and preached "Catholicism without all the bad bits", fathering two children by women in religious orders.

Malannino, 46, is said to have spent almost a decade driving through Europe in hired cars and wearing a rented robe and clerical collar, convincing Roman Catholics he was ordained by the Pope and was a religious entrepreneur on a mission to build hospices.

His trickery was halted by North Yorkshire fraud squad, which acted on a tip-off from a priest who suspected the "chubby, short Italian" was an imposter.

On Monday, he was convicted at York Crown Court of stealing books about brain surgery from a London teaching hospital, and sentenced to three months in jail. Nine fraud charges, which included obtaining property and services by deception, were allowed to lie on file "in the public interest".

He had been on remand for 18 months, but was rearrested and served with a warrant for extradition to Vienna, where he is wanted by police for similar crimes. Malannino, from Catania, Sicily, has already been convicted in Germany and Italy for fraud and mis-using ecclesiastical titles.



End of trickster's trail: St Wilfrid's in York

He is also said to have toured Belgium and France, seducing women and persuading people to give him rent-free accommodation, by claiming he was related to Italian aristocrats and had £10 million in a Swiss account left by his father, whom he claimed was a general and a war hero.

During his travels, he developed a reputation as a womaniser, despite being described by police as plump with dandruff and halitosis. A former novice nun from York has an eight-month-old child by him. A young woman who was a member of a religious order run by nuns in Marseilles also bore him a child.

Detective Constable Adam Harland, who led the Yorkshire investigation, said: "Wherever he goes, he tells people a set number of things: that he has just been robbed, that he is a priest, has £10 million in the bank and is a medical man. He then tells them he is looking for a large building to endow and convert into some kind of hospice."

In June 1994, Malannino arrived in York driving a Belgian hire car that had clocked up 3,000 miles of overdue rental. He had fled from Belgium after locals suspected he was a fraud. In York, he sought out a Catholic community in the city centre close to the Minster. For six weeks, he stayed as a non-paying guest in a private hotel and helped with mass at St Wilfrid's Church. He always wore his clerical collar and had a collection of robes, which police discovered were hired and overdue. He also kept a rubber stamp, with the wording "Archbishop of Turin's office", to use on false documents.


Angelo Malannino faces extradition to Austria after his story aroused a priest's suspicions

Malannino allegedly tried to buy a derelict hospital site at Clifton, York, for £10 million and duped local architects, surveyors and solicitors into carrying out preparatory work costing £35,000.

Father Mike Marsden of St Wilfrid's Church, where Malannino had originally arrived, became suspicious. He said: "At first he was incredibly plausible with his religious and medical knowledge.

"He described such an outlandish life story we thought it was too far-fetched to be true, but he was clever and revealed the details bit by bit and drew people in."

Muggers severed artery of DPP's husband

BY JOANNA BALE

THE husband of the Director of Public Prosecutions told a court yesterday that he was left dripping with blood when he was stabbed in a mugging that could have killed him.

John Mills staggered home to his wife Barbara after he was stabbed in the stomach. An artery in the back of his abdomen was severed and needed emergency surgery.

Mr Mills, 57, a businessman, told Inner London Crown Court that he had parked about 40 yards from the front door of his house in Regent's Park, north London, last May. He saw six youths walking towards him armed with a truncheon and a knife.

He said: "Normally when someone's coming towards you on a pavement, you give way to each other. But that did not happen on this occasion. They closed in on me in unison. They began punching me round the head and one of them tried to get his arm around my neck to get me in a kind of headlock. While they were punching me one said something like 'Give me your money'.

"They looked very aggressive and it did not seem very sensible to get severely beaten up for the value of the contents of my wallet, so I took it out of my pocket and it was snatched from my hand."

He said the youths fled with the wallet, which contained £100, credit cards and photographs of his wife and children.

Peter Clarke, for the prosecution, said the incident was witnessed by a 16-year-old neighbour of Mr Mills. The teenager said the knifeman was "obviously showing off" with a butterfly knife.

Mr Clarke said: "One of the group barged Mr Mills with his shoulder and Mr Mills fell to the kerb and was hit on the head with a truncheon. The whole group then closed in."

Mr Mills did not immediately realise he had been stabbed. He said: "I did not feel anything at the time. I was about to walk back home when a car stopped and the driver asked if I was all right. I said I thought I had been mugged but did not feel too bad. She said: 'I don't think you are all right, you have got blood all over you'."

The woman tried to give him a lift but her car broke down so he staggered home. "There was an enormous amount of blood," he said. "I left a trail of it up the street and on the door when I waited for it to be opened. I was just dripping with blood."


Mills: did not feel anything at the time

Mr Clarke said Mrs Mills opened the front door to her husband. "She saw how badly injured he was and made him lie on the floor until an ambulance arrived. He had a severed artery at the back of his abdomen and had lost a litre of blood before emergency surgery repaired the artery. The wound could have killed him if it had not been found."

Bernard Enerio, 17, was arrested near by and found to have a butterfly knife with Mr Mills's blood on it. He also had the wallet, which had been emptied of cash.

Enerio helped to save Mr Mills's life by admitting the knife was the attack weapon. That helped surgeons to find the extent of the damage and to repair the wound.

Enerio denies being the knifeman, and the Crown has accepted his denial. The prosecution, however, alleges Enerio was the one who wielded the truncheon, which was found near by.

Enerio named Gregory Jananto as the knifeman and said the other muggers were Eduardo de la Cruz, Wayne Lewis, Colville Angol and Learco Chindalo. It was not explained to the jury why the five youths were not in court.

Enerio, of no fixed abode in South Norwood, south London, denies wounding with intent, robbery and possession of a truncheon on May 30 this year. He has admitted possession of a bladed weapon. The trial continues.

Designer fakes cost American dear

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

AN AMERICAN who sold fake designer goods at house parties was fined £1,700 yesterday under legislation brought in to protect trade marks.

Diana Garcia, 32, was caught when trading standards officers and plain-clothes police raided a party at a Kensington flat after inquiries by Chanel and Hermes.

A leaflet advertising "Diana's Autumn Sale" last October alerted the fashion houses, which are waging an international campaign against counterfeit goods. After the case they warned shoppers to beware of fake designer goods sold at private functions in the run-up to Christmas.

Garcia now faces an action for damages in the High Court for trade mark infringement. Goods seized at the Kensington party and at her flat in Maida Vale, west London, were ordered to be forfeited.

She pleaded guilty to 12 counts of contravening the 1994 Trade Marks Act by using the Chanel and Hermes trade marks without authorisation. She was also ordered to pay £1,300 costs by magistrates at Horseferry Road, London.

Garcia, a former actress and model, escaped deportation after it was said that she planned to return to her family home in Texas. She declined to comment after the case.

The charges involved handbags, knitwear, belts, necklaces, earrings, ties, a scarf, a personal organiser, fabric flowers, a key-ring and ribbons which she was offering for a total of approximately £40,000.

Thomas Cosgrove, prosecuting on behalf of the London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, said the items had been sent to Britain by an unnamed Italian and that Garcia stood to keep 20 per cent of the proceeds.

A spokeswoman for Chanel said: "Product counterfeiting is increasing. At private parties the price is often pitched sufficiently high for people to assume that what they are buying is genuine.

"It is part of the psychology of it. A genuine Chanel handbag starts at £500 and if you ask for £300 people might think it is genuine, whereas they would not if the price were say £50."

THE WEEKEND STARTS HERE



FRIDAY
IN THE TIMES

Win a long weekend for two in New York
PLUS
Caitlin Moran on modern music and the Valerie Grove interview

SATURDAY
IN THE TIMES



The pet owner's guide to acceptable presents
PLUS
100 things to do in the Christmas holiday

Abortion woman wanted children

A CHILDLESS woman who was given an abortion during a hysterectomy desperately wanted to start a family, a jury was told yesterday.

Barbara Whiten and her doctors were unaware that she was pregnant when she was admitted to King's Mill Hospital, Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, in 1993 for the hysterectomy.

Reginald Dixon, 58, the consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist who performed the operation, denies unlawfully procuring a miscarriage.

When asked if she had any children, Mrs Whiten told Nottingham Crown Court: "I do but he is at King's Mill Hospital ... I would have loved to have had a baby."

Mrs Whiten, 38, said the hospital had told her she was infertile and the operation was necessary to cure her of endometriosis, a painful abdominal condition. She said she was not given an internal examination when she went into the hospital and had met Mr Dixon only on her way to the theatre on the morning of the operation. "He walked up to the trolley and said, 'Is this one mine? Oh good, another thin one, we will get this over and done with quickly.'"

The court was told that when Mr Dixon discovered the pregnancy he tried to contact Mrs Whiten's husband by telephone but could not reach him. He then checked her medical records and continued with the operation, inevitably aborting the 11-week-old foetus.


Whiten: said she was not given internal check

Mrs Whiten told the jury that she learnt of the abortion only in passing after Mr Dixon checked her wound during his normal rounds. She said he told her he had carried on with the operation "because it was what you would have wanted".

"I couldn't believe what I was hearing. If he had come around the curtain and hit me with a sledgehammer it would have had less effect," Mrs Whiten said.

Nicola Davies, QC, for the defence, said Mr Dixon had sat on the bed and held Mrs Whiten's hand while he explained to her what had happened in the operation.

The case continues.

Accused man was secretly filmed

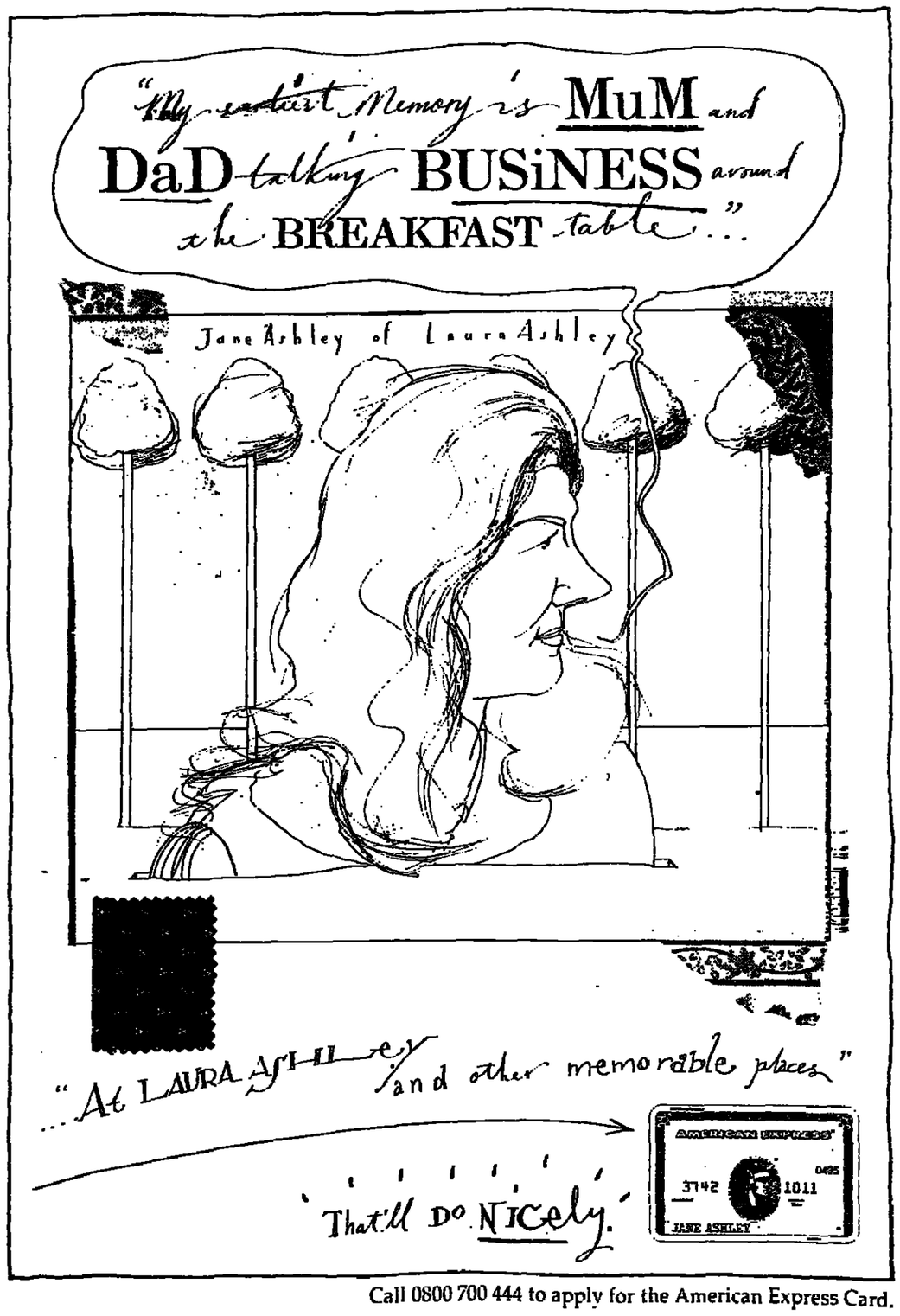
GORDON WARDELL, the man accused of murdering his wife in a plot to rob the building society where she worked, stood to gain an annual pension and a lump sum of more than £56,000 as a result of her death, a court was told yesterday.

Mr Wardell, 42, was assured by building society officials that his mortgage would be paid, along with any other debts, Oxford Crown Court was told. He met managers from the Woolwich Building Society weeks after his wife, Carol, 38, was found murdered in a lay-by near Nuneaton, Warwickshire, on September 12 last year.

The court also heard that Mr Wardell, who denies murder, had been seen walking through Birmingham 11 days after his wife's death — although he claimed to have suffered leg injuries when a gang broke into the couple's house in Meriden, Warwickshire.

An undercover video was shown to the court of Mr Wardell walking through a shopping centre. There was no sign of any limp. But Detective Constable Peter Scawthorn said Mr Wardell suddenly appeared to have difficulty walking as he approached the building society.

The case continues.

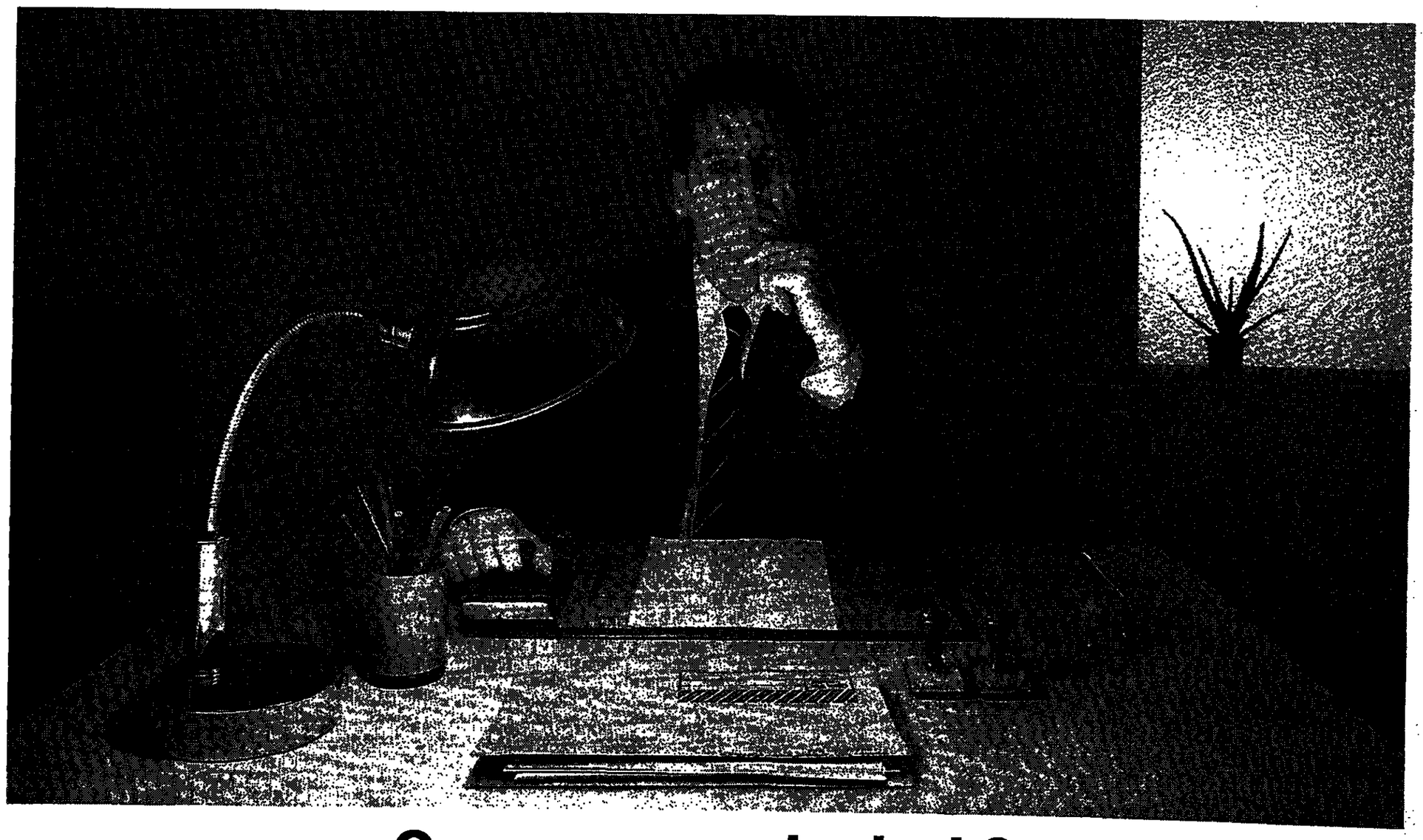


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Former ambassador says proposal makes no sense and would not work

Princess as roving envoy 'is fraught with pitfalls'

BY ANDREW PIERCE AND PHILIP WEBSTER

A FORMER British ambassador to the United Nations rejected the idea last night of the Princess of Wales becoming a roving envoy for Britain. As John Major met the Queen to discuss the Princess's future role, Sir Anthony Parsons said that any such plan would be "fraught with pitfalls".

Sir Anthony, ambassador to the UN during the Falklands War, said: "I have no doubt that a role should be found for the Princess where she would be an asset to the country but not as roving ambassador. It simply does not make sense and would not work."

Mr Major's weekly audience took place against the background of growing opposition among ministers to the proposal that the Princess should have a formal ambassadorial role.

A former Cabinet minister also joined the clamour against the idea. David Howell, chairman of the influential Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee, rejected the idea of a position on the diplomatic stage. He said: "It is amazing the idea is being taken seriously. I cannot understand people saying, 'She is very popular, she must do something'. That is not looking after the monarchy, it is merely washing along with the latest opinion poll. Diplomats are highly skilled. You cannot have people involved who are not experienced. The whole idea should be ruled out now. It is a non-starter."

Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, the Overseas Development Minister, has emerged as the main figure in Foreign Office opposition to a formal role for the Princess. After they conducted a joint trip to Nepal in March 1993 Lady Chalker became convinced that the Princess, while an excellent charity figurehead, should be kept away from the diplomatic sphere.

"Lynda is a pragmatist. She does not believe in parachuting publicity-shot glamour into Third World projects," said one of her closest supporters last night.

Any lingering hopes the Princess had of defining a formal role vanished in the Foreign Office when she appeared to question her husband's suitability to become king during her *Panorama* interview. Mr Howell said: "It was unfortunate. There is a role for her but whatever the role is it should be conducted discreetly. Roving ambassador implies something titular or constitutional.

"It has been hijacked after the likes of Audrey Hepburn carried out work for the United Nations. We are not the UN or the United States. There is no culture of roving ambassador here."

The success of her visit to Argentina convinced the Princess that her plea made on *Panorama* for a role as a caring envoy should be granted. A senior Foreign Office source said: "It was a great success. I cannot deny that. But imagine if she had called the Falkland Islands the Malvinas. The diplomatic damage would have been colossal."



Sir Anthony: says a new role should be found

TIM GRAHAM



Baroness Chalker with the Princess in Nepal. The minister was ignored by the press while the royal visitor received worldwide coverage

Why Nepal was a one-woman show

A VISIT to Nepal in 1993 by the Princess of Wales first raised the Foreign Office's suspicions about her suitability to be a roving ambassador for Britain (Andrew Pierce writes).

The Princess was accompanied by Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, the Overseas Development minister, on the five-day mission to some of the poorest regions of the country. They should have been the dream ticket. But the Foreign Office objection to a "Queen of Hearts" style role was rooted in the way they believe the visit was used as a personal public relations exercise by the Princess.

Covered in garlands, and pursued by the 46-strong press corps, the Princess's first solo visit abroad since her separation was given hundreds of column inches in the national media. It was broadcast on national television across the globe. "New age dawns for Diana the diplomat," said *Today* newspaper. The Queen of Hearts idea was already taking shape.

But always walking some paces behind the Princess of Wales was the redoubtable figure of Lady Chalker, who was normally locked in earnest conversation with government officials. She was virtually ignored by the press.

Few would have recognised from the media coverage that for Nepal it was the indefatigable Lady Chalker, the no-nonsense former head girl of Roedean School, who was the most important visitor. She was the one with the cheque-book in her handbag who was there to ensure that the £17 million of British taxpayers' money, allocated to Nepal through the overseas aid budget, was being spent wisely.

The British Red Cross, whose interests were being represented by the Princess, was delighted, by the coverage. But Lady Chalker and her officials were not so sure. The Princess, according to some officials, was "difficult" to brief. There were glum faces in the British Embassy in Nepal as faxes poured in of the media coverage.

When the Princess and the minister arrived in Kathmandu there was a diplomatic row. The official party was not greeted by the national anthem or even the 18-minute Nepalese national hymn. A Nepalese army band played Spanish-style music instead. Buckingham Palace and the Foreign Office insisted they had not issued instructions to downgrade the significance of the trip.

The next day the Foreign Office was embroiled in further controversy when it was disclosed that it had not given the customary media briefing on behalf of the Princess.

The two women pursued their own itineraries. The Princess, who performed 14 engagements, made a high-profile visit to a 110-bed hospital which is run by the Leprosy Mission International, of which she is patron.

Lady Chalker, by contrast, spent much of the time visiting far-flung projects and making worthy speeches, which went unreported. The next day's front-page picture was of the Princess, wearing a see-through silk skirt, which had echoes of the one taken 13 years earlier when she was helping at a nursery school.

Photographs of the Princess's meeting with the Gurkhas were front-page news while photographs of Lady Chalker were related to articles contrasting the differing profiles of the two. Courtiers of the Princess were briefing the media as early as December 1992 on how the trip would establish her as the "true star of the royals". They were not disappointed. When they returned the headlines said it all. "The triumph of Diana," said the *Daily Express*. Heartened by her successful visit to Nepal, *The Sun* speculated that the Princess could win the Nobel Peace Prize. Lady Chalker, who lost her Commons seat at the last election, became convinced that the Princess could perform admirably in the charity sector but her officials are clear that it should be nothing more than that.

Most of Lady Chalker's overseas trips receive little or no media attention. But there was deep concern that the trip was interpreted by the media as a personal triumph for the Princess rather than focussing on the issues of Third World poverty. Foreign Office staff fear that any future goodwill missions would reflect the Princess's continuing popularity compared with royals such as the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal.

Vestey family hit by further tragedy

BY JOANNA BALE

THE wife of Lord Vestey, one of Britain's wealthiest men, was in a critical condition in hospital yesterday after suffering a brain haemorrhage. Her illness is the latest in a series of tragedies and scandals to afflict the family, which has built up a meat business empire worth millions of pounds.

Celia Vestey, 46, was putting up Christmas decorations at the family home, Stowell Park, near Cirencester, Gloucestershire, when she collapsed.

She was taken to Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, where she underwent emergency surgery to remove a blood clot from her brain. A hospital spokeswoman said Lady Vestey was unconscious and "critical but stable" in intensive care.

Lord Vestey, 54, the former head of the Dewhurst butchers' chain, was at his wife's bedside yesterday. The couple were married in December 1981 and have two sons, William, 12, and Arthur, 10, and a three-year-old daughter, Mary.

Lady Vestey's sister, Henrietta Knight, said: "She is not showing any signs of change at the moment. She is still unconscious but she is not going backwards."

Another family spokeswoman added: "She's had an operation to remove a blood clot from her brain. She's in a stable condition and in the best of hands."

Lady Vestey, known as Ce-Ce to her family, is a keen horsewoman who last year survived when her favourite horse threw her and rolled on top of her, breaking her leg. Her serious condition is the latest in a series of traumas to afflict the Vestey family.

In 1984 Michael Telling, Lord Vestey's cousin, killed his bisexual American wife Monika and dismembered her body. Telling was found guilty of manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility and jailed for life.

The same year Lord Vestey's younger brother, Mark, was paralysed in a hunting accident and is now confined to a wheelchair.

I have girlfriends, says Ashby case GP

A DOCTOR accused of being the Tory MP David Ashby's homosexual lover told the High Court yesterday that he had girlfriends but refused to discuss his sex life in public.

Ciaran Kilduff, 32, a general practitioner of Putney, south-west London, dismissed as "complete nonsense" claims by counsel for *The Sunday Times* that he engaged in sexual acts with the MP on three occasions.

Richard Hartley, QC, asked: "How intimate have your relationships been with your girlfriends?" Dr Kilduff laughed and said: "I don't presume to discuss my love life in public view." Mr Ashby is claiming damages over an article published on January 16 last year which said he shared a double bed with a man in Goa. He says it alleged that he was a homosexual who had misled his estranged wife and lied to the public, and that he was a hypocrite in emphasising the importance of the family.

Times Newspapers Ltd and Andrew Neil, former Editor of *The Sunday Times*, deny libel. They accept Mr Ashby did not holiday with a man in Goa but assert that he was and is having an affair with Dr Kilduff. The case continues.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Sale revives County Hall hotel plan

County Hall in London is at last to be turned into a hotel complex. The Grade II listed building across the Thames from Parliament, which has been empty since the Greater London Council was abolished in 1986, should be back in use by 1998.

The development will be by the brewer Whitbread, which announced yesterday that it had bought a 75-year lease on the hall from Shirayama Shokusan, the Japanese owners who bought the building for £60 million in 1993.

'Samurai' cleared

A man who allegedly attacked a policeman with a samurai sword while dressed as a Japanese warrior was cleared of attempted murder by the Old Bailey. John Kirkham, 42, of Guildford, still faces a charge of attempting to wound the PC.

Woman killed

Hilda Swan, wife of Sir Conrad Swan, former Garter Principal King of Arms at the Royal College of Arms, was killed by a hit-and-run driver near her home at Boxford, Suffolk. Lady Swan, 58, was treated at the scene but died of her injuries.

Bridge complete

The last section of the second Severn crossing was completed yesterday when Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, and William Hague, the Welsh Secretary, poured concrete into the missing gap on the two-mile bridge.

Golfer voted Britain's best dressed man



Until then, there's Glenfiddich to enjoy.



'Dad was just crying. He was very down. I had never seen him like that before'

West's son misses the killer who tormented him

BY A STAFF REPORTER

LIFE at the home of Frederick and Rosemary West was so corrupting and brutal that the children had little chance of discovering how normal families lived, television viewers will be told tonight. Two of the couple's children say that beatings, abuse and even bugged bedrooms had given them no hope of rescue.

Stephen West, aged 21, and his sister Mae, 23, have also told the BBC1 programme *Inside Story* of their domineering father's final weeks as a weeping prisoner terrified of attack from other inmates.

Police discovered during investigations at 35 Cromwell Street that jewellery and handbags given to the Wests' daughters as gifts had been taken from the couple's murder victims. Stephen found that a hole he had helped his father to dig in the garden was his sister's grave. Constant floods in the basement were caused by damage to a sewer pipe from another victim's burial.

The son and daughter both say that if someone in authority had asked them the right questions, the killings could have ended years before. Stephen says his father came close to giving himself up to police, and had said he had committed crimes "worse than you can imagine". But neither can believe their mother was guilty of ten murders.

As far back as they could remember, life in the West household revolved around sex, they say. Children were shown blue movies and pornographic pictures, and encouraged to have sex as early as possible. There was a constant stream of men going to Rosemary West's bedroom, she flaunted herself naked in front of visitors, and Frederick West made sexual demands on his daughters as they grew older. He had bugged every room in the house to hear the children whispering to each other at night, and the girls stood guard outside the shower to warn each other that their father was coming to assault them, they recall.

Mae says: "Dad used to say a father should break his daughters in, and the first-born child of a daughter should be her father's. From 11 or 12, he used to touch us all the time. If we pushed him away, he would get angry or say we were lesbians."

Stephen says his father even suggested he should have sex with his mother when he was 16, to "teach you how you should treat a woman".

The children were beaten regularly, especially by Mrs West, says Stephen. On one occasion, he was called home from school, forced to strip, tied up and beaten for almost an hour with a buckle end of a belt, because his mother thought he had stolen some pornographic magazines. He returned to school with blood seeping through his shirt.

He says: "We didn't know whether we were being treated more severely than any other child would be. Mum smiling at us and laughing at us as she hit us was the only thing that hurt." Their toys were scavenged from tips, and their parents took them on days out stealing bicycles. Mae says:



Stephen West and his sister Mae say that their father was terrified in prison

"We had nothing to compare it against, because we were never really allowed to go to other friends' houses or to stay over with anybody. We obviously did see TV and the way people live. We envied them, we wanted our lives to be like that."

Stephen tells of conversations with his father in prison, in which West said he had killed more people than the police knew about. Visiting West in a Birmingham bail hostel in 1992, when his father was on remand on sex charges, he says: "He started saying that he had been covering up stuff from all of us. He said that his life began when we went to sleep at night. He said it had been going on for years."

After West admitted the murders of 12 women and girls, Stephen spoke to him in prison. He recalls: "He was just crying. He was very down. I had never seen him like that before. He told me he was sorry for what he did because he would not be returning home. He wouldn't let go of my hands. He told me that he would never tell anybody the whole truth, only what they needed to know.

"He said it was worse than I could imagine and he had no intention of telling everything. He said he could not stop what he was doing. After he killed one woman, he went to Gloucester police station wanting to turn himself in, but he thought of us children and he wanted to be there for us."

Mae says West was scared that prison inmates would attack him. "He was terrified of being killed inside. I don't think he was hard enough for prison."

The horror was worst when they learnt that their father had killed their sister Heather. Mae says: "It could have easily been me. I started to hate Dad." Stephen adds: "I felt like someone had hit me with a hammer. I just slid down the wall and cried."

Stephen says he thought his parents' behaviour stemmed from the way they were treated as children: "They never had any affection so they couldn't show us any affection." He adds that he misses his father: "I hate him for what he did, but life is hard without him. Sometimes I sit down and I cannot see why I should carry on. I don't think I will ever come to terms with what happened."

Ian Stuttard, the programme producer, said the two were calm and composed throughout 4½ hours of filming. "They are people who have lived all their lives learning how to control their emotions and to keep things back simply to try to survive."

Olivia Lichtenstein, the series producer, denied that the programme would be offensive to the Wests' victims. "Stephen and Mae are victims of their father and mother too," she said.

Part-timers lose claim for pension damages

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE TUC is considering an appeal on behalf of 60,000 part-time workers after a tribunal blocked compensation for backdated benefits from pension schemes.

The industrial tribunal in Birmingham, which considered 24 test cases, refused to allow claims for pension compensation beyond the two-year limit already established. The TUC had argued that employers should not be "let off the hook" for past discrimination.

The tribunal also decided to strike off claims made outside the six-month time limit for lodging tribunal proceedings after leaving an employer.

The TUC mounted the legal challenge after the European Court of Justice ruled in September last year that employers who barred part-time workers from company pension schemes could be guilty of indirect sex discrimination.

The TUC estimated that the compensation could total £95 million. John Monks, General Secretary, said: "We are urgently considering taking these claims forward to the Employment Appeals Tribunal where, if necessary, we will seek a direct referral to the European Court."

Britain takes lead on rare plants and wildlife

BY NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

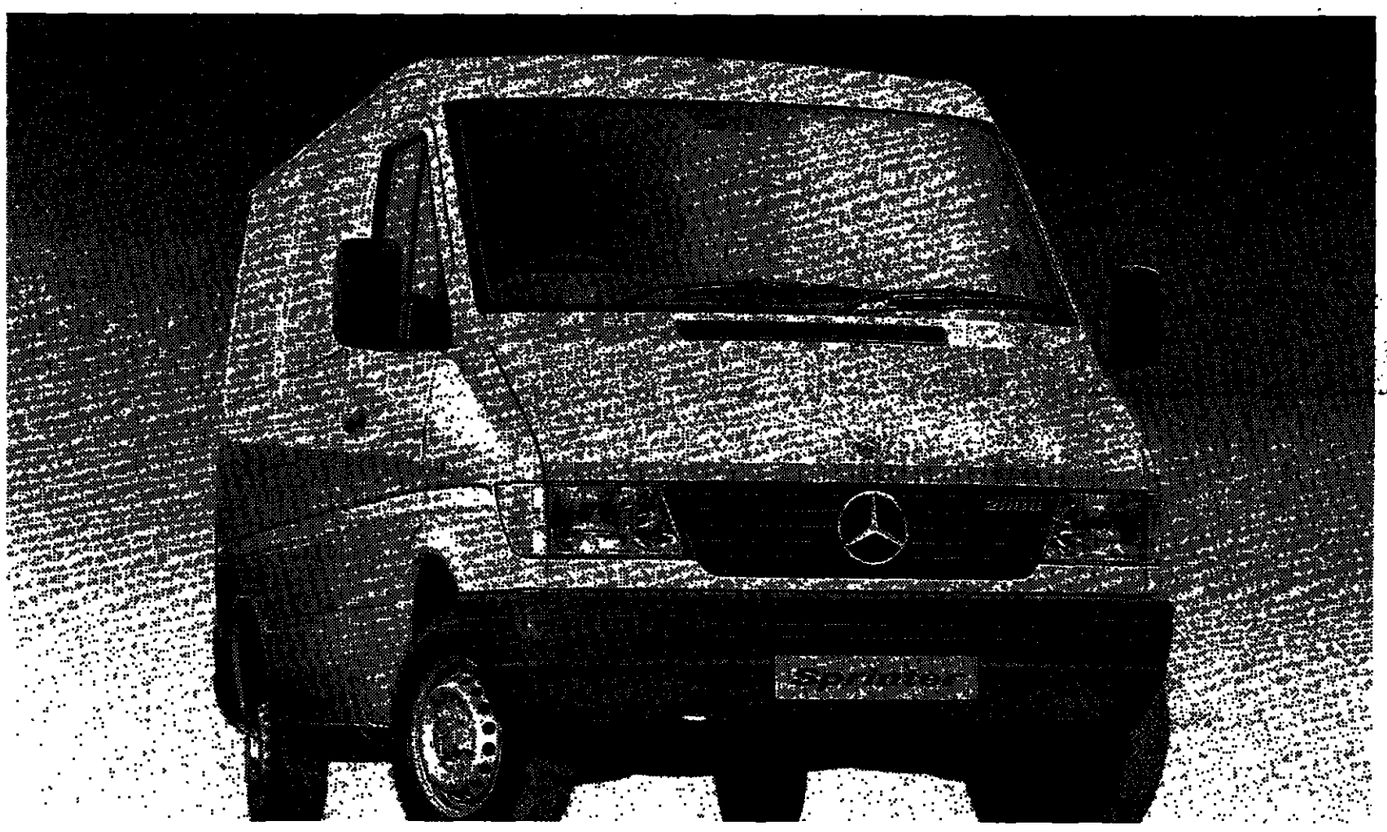
PLANS to preserve and increase numbers of more than 100 species of British plants and wildlife have been drafted by advisers to the Department of the Environment.

The proposals, in a report to be given to John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, mark a new strategy for securing the future of some of the rarest animals and plants. The plans have been approved by wildlife groups, councils, scientists and bodies including the National Farmers' Union.

Members of the Biodiversity Steering Committee, which has drawn up the report, claim that it makes Britain a world leader. More than 100 nations signed the Biodiversity Convention in Rio in 1992 to protect the richness of their national wildlife. "Britain is now the first to draft a strategy to implement this," a spokesman for the Wildlife Trusts said.

The long term goal is to extend the plan to 400 species, including organisms such as mosses and fungi, and 38 different habitats. The cost is estimated at £100 million a year.

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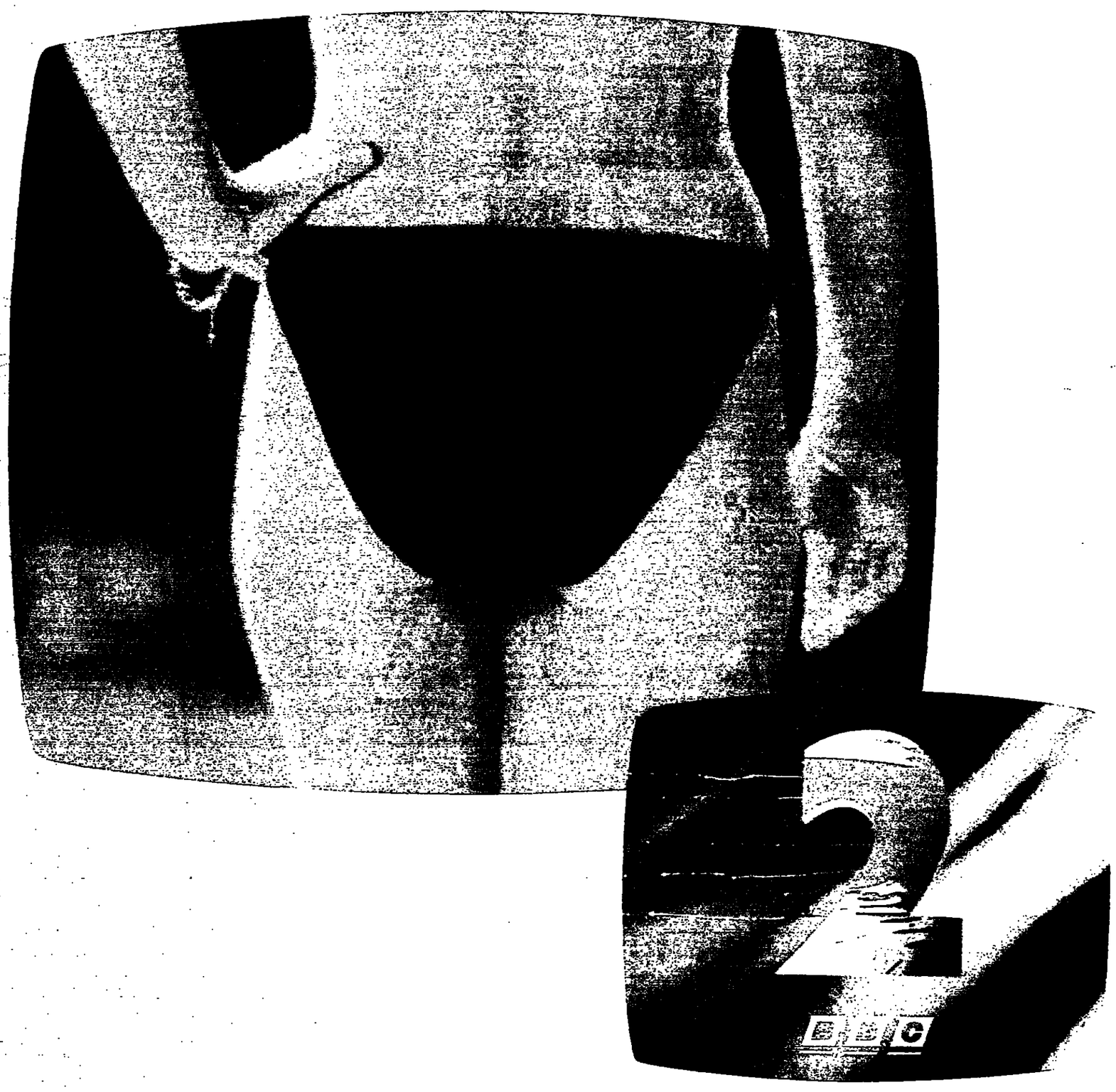
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Feminist pressure group criticises delay

Thornton must wait for murder appeal ruling

By Russell Jenkins and Richard Ford

SARA THORNTON, the focus of a campaign highlighting the plight of battered wives, will have to wait until Christmas before she learns whether she is a free woman.

She left court on bail yesterday pending the decision of the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth, whether to quash her conviction five years ago for the murder of her husband. The 38-year-old mother says he was drunken and violent.

She emerged surrounded by her vociferous supporters but earlier the court had heard that she was not a victim of "battered wife syndrome" but was instead a scheming woman who murdered Malcolm Thornton in cold blood.

Outside the court the two camps — the angry family of the dead man and radical feminists supporting Thornton — reflected the bitter divisions that the case has caused.

Gladys Suthers, the dead man's sister, said: "She is evil and manipulative but she did not manipulate the Lord Chief Justice thank goodness. I would love it if the case went for retrial because then the truth would come out."

Jean Murray, his other sister, said: "Sara is looking for loophole justice because she has become the centre of a high-profile cause for radical feminists. It seems justice for my brother is non-existent."



Malcolm Thornton's sisters, Jean Murray, left, and Gladys Suthers, leaving court yesterday

Julie Bindel, founder of the pressure group Justice for Women, said: "We are hopeful but it was an act of cruelty not to make a decision today. It is obvious that they will have to find in her favour."

David and Julie Rymer-Cooper, Thornton's father and stepmother, were in court sitting alongside the two sisters of the dead man.

Thornton's defence team wants the court to quash her murder conviction in favour of the lesser charge of manslaughter, which would effectively leave her a free woman. Michael Mansfield, QC, her barrister, said that she was driven to stab her husband, a former policeman, with a single blow from a kitchen knife after a long history of provocation. She was especially vulnerable because she suffered a severe personality disorder.

This was not highlighted in the original trial, said Mr Mansfield, but the court heard how Thornton, who had a history of heavy drinking herself, had openly spoken to a neighbour about how she wanted to kill her husband.

Within 24 hours of this telephone conversation, Thornton's husband confronted his wife in the kitchen of their home in Atherstone, Warwickshire, where she was cutting up a chicken with the sharpened knife which later became the murder weapon. The "unpleasant scene" ended when Thornton pointed the knife at his chest and her stepson Martin, then 20, disarmed her. Later she gave her drunken husband two sleeping tablets and crushed up four more which she fed to him in a chicken sandwich as he lay in a near stupor in the bath.

Brian Escott-Cox, QC, for the Crown, said that on the night of the killing Thornton wrote "Bastard Thornton, I hate you," in lipstick on the bedroom mirror before going to the pub with her stepson.

She was in an aggressive mood, the court heard. She argued with the publican and threw her fare at the taxi driver. She returned home to find Mr Thornton still unconscious on the sofa.

Upstairs her stepson was dozing off but he told the trial judge that he heard no "serious disturbance". Mr Escott-Cox said: "He heard the rattle of the cutlery drawer in the kitchen. She possessed herself of the largest and sharpest knife in the house and delivered a single clinical blow. This militates very strongly against this being a true case of provocation. There is no long-term history of being a battered wife for the purposes of post-traumatic stress syndrome or any other."

SIMON WALKER



Daniel Ryan, the actor in the drink-drive advert, at the campaign launch yesterday

Drink-drive message spells out the danger

By Jonathan Prynn
Transport Correspondent

THE Government's Christmas campaign against drink-driving features a young man who suffers brain damage in a car crash and has to be spoonfed by his mother.

The 30-second television message, shown for the first time last night, was described by Steven Norris, the Road Safety Minister, as the Government's most powerful commercial yet. It will be backed by posters saying: "Just one more just isn't worth it."

Daniel Ryan, who plays the crippled man, has himself been convicted of a drink-driving offence and fined £250 after testing positive five years ago. Mr Ryan, 27, said: "My message to people thinking of drinking and driving this Christmas is 'Don't bother. Just take a taxi'."

Mr Norris said the £1.2 million campaign was aimed at male drivers aged between 18 and 24 who were three times more likely to be killed as a result of drink-driving than motorists in their 40s. "Young men are often terrified by the idea of being crippled for life," Mr Norris said.

The television message conveyed the idea that the "stress, damage, grief, loss and tragedy you may create by a drink-driving act is something that will haunt you for the rest of your life".

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MEDICAL BRIEFING

Women are twice as likely to suffer from depression as men. Suicide is more common in men, however, and the type of depression in which the mood varies between extreme elation and black despair is found equally in both sexes.

The prevalence of depression in women has led John Studd, an obstetrician and gynaecologist at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, London, to open a psycho-endocrine clinic at the hospital. Mr Studd argues that the gender difference in the incidence of depression cannot be chance and rejects the view that it is the result of the woman's social and professional lot in life, although he accepts there may be psychosocial factors. He has found that treatment with hormones can be as helpful in most cases as anti-depressants.

Depression is particularly likely to occur at times when a woman's hormone balance undergoes marked changes: after pregnancy, the menopause and in the days leading to her period. Clinical depression, as opposed to simply being fed up, is rare in the last months of pregnancy when oestrogen levels are high.

Two types of depression affect women after delivery, the postnatal blues and puerperal psychosis, both of which have been given prominence by the Princess of Wales's description of her experiences on *Panorama*. From her account it would seem that she suffered from a true depressive illness and not just the postnatal blues.

In conjunction with Anne Henderson of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at St George's Hospital, Tooting, Mr Studd has reviewed psychiatric illness after birth for the *Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology*.

Postnatal blues affect 50 to 70 per cent of mothers to a greater or lesser extent. Within ten days of delivery, usually around the third day, the patient will be depressed, weepy and anxious. Fortunately the condition is transient and morale returns within four days. Women who have previously suffered with premenstrual syndrome are more likely to experience a passing episode of depression after delivery.

Puerperal psychosis, usually depression but very occasionally a schizophrenic type of breakdown, occurs more commonly after delivery than at any other time of a woman's life.

Mr Studd says a woman is 15 times more likely to develop depression in the three months after childbirth. Fifty per cent of those who suffer postnatal depression show symptoms within three months but the onset may be delayed for months, and possibly longer than a year.

Hormones are not the only cause of puerperal depression. In both postnatal blues and postnatal psychosis, which affects 10 to 17 per cent of women, one particular psychosocial aspect has been found to be important: the relationship between the woman, her partner and the rest of their family.

Research shows that it is the perceived, rather than the actual, support provided by the partner, relatives and friends which matters to a woman postnatally.

Depressed women tend to regard their family and partners as being unsupportive even if they are doing their best and observers would regard their efforts as being praiseworthy. This false perception of indifference or callousness can deepen depression and increase the sense of alienation.

Puerperal depression needs skilled medical help — gynaecological, psychiatric or probably both. There is often a clear genetic component and a psychiatric history in the patient or in her family. It is important not only to alleviate her symptoms of self-dislike, hopelessness, insomnia and apathy but to maintain a watching brief, for the same troubles are likely to recur in subsequent pregnancies or, Mr Studd would suggest, whenever her hormonal balance is badly disturbed.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

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'Our crusade is designed to offer to the many what was available only to the few'

Labour promises carrot and stick for failing schools

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

LABOUR intends to use a mixture of stick and carrot to raise standards in state schools. A wide-ranging programme announced yesterday would place new responsibilities on parents, schools and local authorities.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, promised a "quantum leap" in the opportunities offered to children. "Our crusade is designed to offer to the many what previously was available only to the few," he said.

Most initiatives in the 38-page report, *Excellence for Everyone*, have been trailed in speeches by Mr Blunkett or Tony Blair. But they see the package as a cohesive assault on underachievement. Mr Blair said: "Our approach is based on a contract between authorities, schools, teachers and parents."

Some of the measures, such as the introduction of foreign languages in primary schools, will be long-term objectives. But limits on class sizes in infant schools, closer monitoring of performance and targets for improvement, would be priorities for an incoming Labour government.

Mr Blunkett said raising standards was too urgent to be left until Labour came to power. Elements of the package will be pioneered before the general election by Labour local authorities such as Lewisham in south London, which has drawn up a five-year plan for school improvement.

Launching the policy in London, Mr Blair acknowledged that the proposals took Labour into unfamiliar territory. Commitments to group primary school pupils according to ability, speed dismissal procedures for incompetent teachers and close more failed schools would all have been unthinkable until recently.

Mr Blair said good schools had nothing to fear. "I hope we will have a proper and constructive dialogue but you can't in the end have a situation where people are running a school and can't do it properly. If we aren't prepared to take that on board as a country then we are betraying our own future."

Labour divided its plans into four areas, focusing on improvements in teaching, the role of parents, governors and local authorities, setting new targets, and tackling underachievement.

Improving teaching

A new national qualification would be introduced for head teachers, which would become a requirement. There would be more rigorous appraisal for heads and teachers, with streamlined procedures for sacking those found wanting.

More adults, drawn from business, professions and the local community, would help in classrooms as "associates", working under the direction of teachers. Classes of children under seven would be limited to 30 pupils, and every child would have access to a computer. Foreign languages would be introduced in primary schools.

Beyond school

Home-School Associations would draw parents into school activities, and families would be expected to enter into "contracts" detailing rights and responsibilities. Secondary schools would teach parenting skills, and Labour would set minimum standards for homework.

Targets

Children will be assessed when they enter primary school to allow their progress to be monitored. The Reading Recovery scheme for slow learners, which was phased out by the Government, would be reinstated.

Under-achievement

Strong discipline would be the starting point in tackling under-performance. Local authorities would be encouraged to set up more referral units for expelled pupils. Struggling schools would be offered help but closed if all else fails. New facilities and fresh leadership would be offered subsequently on the same site.

DES JENSON



Rachel Walton, 7, talking with Tony Blair and David Blunkett and at Fleet Primary School in Hampstead, north London, yesterday

Closure option 'should be only a last resort'

BY JOHN O'LEARY AND IAN MURRAY

EDUCATION spokesmen in Labour local authorities warmly welcomed Tony Blair's commitment to improving educational standards but there were concerns about the ways in which the improvements are to be brought about.

Several felt that rigorous appraisals of teachers and closures of failing schools could undermine morale and be counterproductive unless they were used only as a last resort. Larry Nolan, from Knowsley, Merseyside, said: "If you introduce too much stick, where is the carrot? I think it has got to be even-handed and not just full of condemnation. There are some teachers who could do better but a heck of a lot doing a really good job and that must be recognised. The document is generally excellent but there are a few points that will need to be ironed out."

Brian Hodgson, of Oxfordshire, said: "It is crucial to take teachers and teachers' unions along with us. Closure of any school should be only a last resort and I would be very reluctant indeed to build it into the system." Mr Hodgson said that the leadership of the National Union of Teachers broadly supported the ideas, although it was out of touch with the grassroots of the profession.

Maggie Levett, of Gloucestershire, accepted that there had been a fall in standards but blamed lack of resources and the abolition of the "catchment area" system of enrolment. "Because money is paid for bums on seats it's made education very competitive and set school against school," she said. "In the market-place ethos prevalent, with schools vying to get the cash, it cannot be surprising that some fare better than others."

Graham Lane, chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities' education committee, said: "This document is excellent because it insists that there should be high standards for all as opposed to the selective system which accepts in advance that some people aren't going to achieve as much as others."

Janet Daley, page 18
Leading article, page 19

Beef boycott spreads despite assurances

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of schools have banned beef from their menus, or limited the type they serve, because of concern about "mad cow" disease.

Most of the 37,000 state schools in England and Wales are still serving beef, but the boycott is spreading despite assurances by Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, that there is "no conceivable risk" of anyone being infected by eating beef.

Last week Sir Bernard Tomlinson, an authority on brain disease, called for all beef offal to be banned because of the risk from bovine spongiform encephalopathy, the so-called "mad cow" disease.

Camden council is to ban beef and beef products in all its 58 state schools from tomorrow. Croydon will stop serving beefburgers, sausages and meat pies in its 95 primary schools from Monday, but will still offer beef in secondary schools, where pupils have a choice of dishes.

A Camden spokesman said: "Our environmental health advisers say beef is safe, but we have had a lot of requests from parents to take it off the menu and we are responding to that concern." Ninety out of 180 primary schools in West Glamorgan, 47 out of 345 schools in Suffolk, 20 out of 550 primary and secondary schools in Staffordshire and about 12 out of 400 in Surrey have stopped serving beef.

Some counties have had long-standing restrictions. Humberside has permitted only imported beef in its 437 schools since 1991. Cleveland has banned all beef from primary schools, where there is no meal choice, for three years.

Pat Fellows, chairman of the Local Authority Catering Association, said: "In my view to exclude beef totally would not be justified on the evidence we have. In any case, most schools offer a choice of food. Even if schools ban beef there is nothing to stop children going to the local hot-dog man after class is out."

Call to aid more heart patients

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

BETTER treatment and prevention of heart disease could save 8,000 patients each year and improve the quality of life for thousands more, a health watchdog says today.

Poor organisation of services and wide variations in provision are highlighted in a report from the Audit Commission. At least a million people suffer from chest pain caused by heart disease and 500,000 suffer heart failure.

Although deaths have fallen by 30 per cent in the past ten years, heart disease still causes twice as many premature deaths among men under 65 in England and Wales as in other Western countries.

The number of coronary artery bypass operations performed on patients with heart disease between 1980 and 1994 rose fivefold but the rate — at 400 per million of population — is still well below that in most other European countries. Surgery can relieve pain and greatly improve quality of life but access depends on where patients live.

Andrew Foster, controller of the commission, said: "More lives could be saved and quality of life improved through better prevention, treatment and care."

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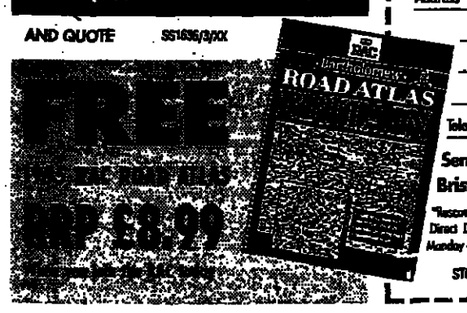
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The arduous journey from pious intention to practical action

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Politics is dominated by debates about what governments can do usually expressed in terms of the size of the public sector. The present Government has set great store on reducing the share of spending to less than 40 per cent of national income. Labour has implicitly accepted this constraint, not least because of its desire to hold down the tax burden. But the debate is much more complicated than just questions of size, as shown by a series of essays in the latest quarterly journal from the Demos think-tank, *Missionary Government*. As always with Demos, there is the danger of pretentious theorising, neat sounding concepts, or intellectual paradigms, which mean little in practice, such as "after reinvention: culture is the agenda".

Yet there is a core of shrewd insights about the limits to the current drive to reinvent government by focusing on competition, financial incentives and regulation. The central argument is that, while the "reinventers" have been proved right in improving the management and machinery of government, the efficiency of healthcare and administration of benefits, they have failed to alter public attitudes and behaviour. Many initiatives, such as Citizen's Charters, have done more to fuel expectations than to satisfy them.

Governments need to influence cultures of behaviour — for instance, by encouraging parents to play a greater role in schools, involving local communities more in crime prevention, and using campaigns of exhortation, as well as financial incentives, to encourage saving. Some of this is common sense, but there is a risk of merely pious good intentions. Yet there is an increasing acceptance by political leaders that goals such as limiting the growth of social security spending require much more than just cutting back benefit commitments if the degree of dependency is really to be reduced. A change in the behaviour of the unemployed and single mothers is also required. This is implicit in the welfare-to-work ideas which both the Tories and Labour are proposing. The traditional Left is consequently suspicious of Tony Blair's talk about the values of family life. Similarly, Gordon Brown has taken up Francis Fukuyama's thinking about creating a new culture of trust within business and in partnership with government.

Other articles discuss the limits of government. Sir Roger Douglas, the former New Zealand Minister for Finance and ministerial model for thinking radicals of both Left and Right, underlines his succinct and jargon-free case for changing the role of the State. This involves mixing the traditional Left's desire to give everyone access to high-quality education, healthcare and pensions with the traditional Right's emphasis on competition and consumer choice with private enterprise delivering.

But as Professor Richard Rose argues, British politics often seems to combine maximum talk of change with minimum progress towards the optimal allocation of resources. In an updating of his book with Philip Davies, *Inheritance in Public Policy*, he notes how constrained any new government is: in 1990, for instance, three quarters of public spending was devoted to measures introduced before 1945. In his view, "the radicalism of the Thatcher Government showed that, up to a point, British people will accept some changes once in 20 years. But Thatcher's downfall showed the limits of that acceptance." He points to the competing pressures on Mr Blair and the conservatism of his language on policy and his emphasis on long-termism. This, he argues, leaves open whether the path from the short to the long term will be a gradual amendment of existing policies, or a trial-and-error search. In practice, the record of a Labour government will depend less on its wishes now than on whether it takes office during a boom or slump.

☐ *Missionary Government, available for £5 from Demos, 9, Bridewell Place, London EC4V 6AP.*

PETER RIDDELL

Major to spell out his rejection of EU defence policy

BY MICHAEL EVANS, JILL SHERMAN AND NICHOLAS WOOD

JOHN MAJOR will oppose a common European defence policy today, after Michael Portillo's strong expression of support yesterday for Nato as the cornerstone of the Continent's security.

In talks in Florence with Lamberto Dini, the Italian Prime Minister, Mr Major will make clear his rejection of plans for the Western European Union — an exclusively European defence organisation — to be brought under the control of Brussels as a first step towards downgrading Nato. Signor Dini is backing the plan.

Mr Major's readiness to risk a clash with European leaders will please Euro-sceptic Tories, who remain convinced that Germany and its allies want the EU to assume a defence role. Their suspicions have been aroused by the appointment of Javier Solana, Spanish Foreign Minister and formerly a critic of Nato, as its Secretary-General.

Mr Portillo, the Defence Secretary, told the WEU assembly in Paris yesterday that Nato's operation in Bosnia should disprove once and for all the idea that a "wholly separate" European army could ever replace the alliance in tackling major security challenges. He dismissed as a "flawed concept" the notion that Nato should be limited to its historic role of collective defence, leaving all other military missions, such as peacekeeping, to the Europeans.

Mr Portillo criticised the amount of time spent just talking about the need for greater European responsibility for defence since the signing of the Maastricht treaty, which linked the WEU to the EU. "Defence cannot be a plaything in the game of European construction," he said.

Nato was now embarking on the largest operation in its history, alongside Russian and other non-Nato troops. That sort of military cooperation was the "real world", worth "a thousand well-intentioned declarations or speeches".

Referring to the proposal that the WEU should be subordinated to the EU, he said: "A wholly disproportionate energy has been diverted into debate about symbols, institutions and structures." The only way to meet the new security challenges, was to have defence structures built on Nato and the WEU, in which all European nations could play their part.

Senior Tory sources say that at today's Anglo-Italian summit Mr Major is prepared to tell Signor Dini some "home truths" on European security. According to Foreign Office officials, at a recent Council of Ministers meeting the Italians spoke out strongly in favour of a merger of the EU and the WEU. Mr Major is expected to make clear to Signor Dini that he has no intention of signing up to a single European army.

Britain takes over the presidency of the WEU in January and will try to stall any attempts by other countries to press ahead with a merger.

Iain Duncan-Smith, one of the Maastricht rebels, said that Chancellor Kohl of Germany had said as recently as September that there would be a European defence union by the end of the century. Britain's problem was that by supporting the WEU it was creating a mechanism for other states to achieve their ends. "Our objective has to be to make it clear well before the inter-governmental conference next year that any discussions on a single European army will be vetoed before they can begin."

The argument over subordinating the WEU to the EU has faded into the background over the past few months as it has become clear that opposition to a fully-fledged European defence union extends beyond Britain. The farthest that EU governments may now go when the Maastricht treaty is revised next year is to leave the door open to the possibility that the WEU may be put under EU control.

Ministers ridicule Labour tax plans

BY JAMES LANDALE AND ALICE THOMSON

MINISTERS attacked Labour for trying to portray itself as a low-tax party yesterday, insisting that it was unable to change its high-tax instincts.

John Major, speaking at Prime Minister's Questions before the last day of the Budget debate, said that Labour had an "innate distaste" for cutting taxes. He dismissed its plans for a 10p income tax rate as a gimmick.

Opening the debate for the Government, Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, accused Labour of secretly planning to raise the top rate of income tax to 60 per cent, after a frontbench spokesman had tabled a written question asking what effect such a tax rise would have on Treasury yields.

Mr Heseltine said: "The party opposite has changed none of its instincts and none of its ambitions. They will always represent the interests of organised Labour rather than the marketplace."

For Labour, John Prescott, the deputy leader, accused Mr Heseltine of being the chief propagandist of the Tory party and a "has-been hop-along deputy". Mr Heseltine was a millionaire who had done extremely well out of the past 16 years of Tory rule while others had suffered.

Mr Prescott said that Labour would put employment and fair taxation at the top of its list of objectives. "There are five million people in this country who are living on benefits who will get nothing out of the 1p deduction in the basic tax rate."

Earlier Mr Heseltine mocked Mr Prescott for being excluded from top-level Labour meetings. But he said that a poem printed in *The Times* on Monday showed that "somebody loved him".

Amid laughter on the Tory benches, Mr Heseltine recited the poem in which the author describes kissing Mr Prescott in a dream, only to have the moment destroyed when her mother walks into the room. "I must say it was a merciful release for somebody," Mr Heseltine said.

☐ One of Mr Prescott's parliamentary colleagues admitted yesterday that he once kissed the author of the poem. Austin Mitchell, MP for Great Grimsby, said he met Fleur Adcock, now 61, more than 35 years ago when they were both working at the University of Otago in New Zealand. "She was young, single, fancy-free with a kiss of fire," he said. "It was after a university party. We had a long, passionate, unforgettable embrace."

Leading article, page 19



National security at risk, say MPs

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

INADEQUATE government funding of new technology in the defence industry is posing a threat to national security, MPs said yesterday.

Britain's defence technology base is also at risk because of a drop in spending on research and development, according to a joint report by the select committees on defence and trade and industry. It says that Britain's long-term security depends on economic growth as well as the strength of the Armed Forces, and calls for more defence spending.

The committees want greater collaboration with European companies and governments rather than with America, and urge the Government to do more to create a European defence market. "We regard greater European collaboration as crucial to the survival of the defence industries of the UK," they said.

"We further recommend that MoD make the maintenance of the technology base of the UK defence industries a priority."

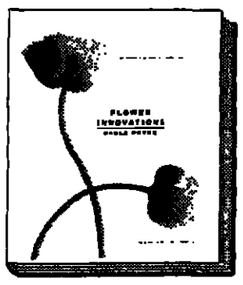
IN PARLIAMENT

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TODAY In the Commons: backbench debates followed by trade and industry questions and debates on the Audit (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, second reading; Chemical Weapons Bill, remaining stages; the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme. In the Lords: debates on long-term care of the elderly; Boxing Bill, second reading.

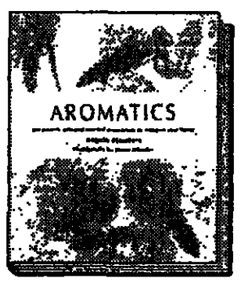
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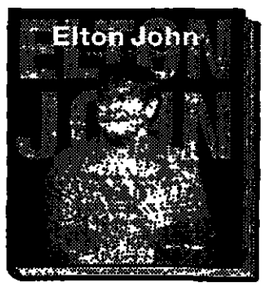
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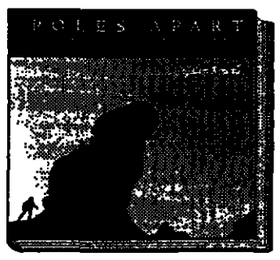
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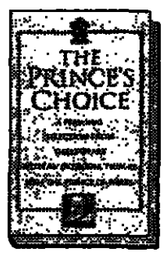
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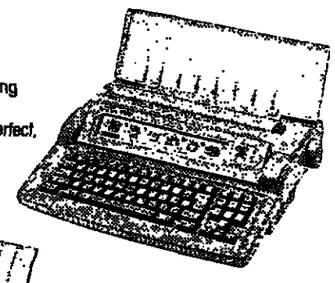
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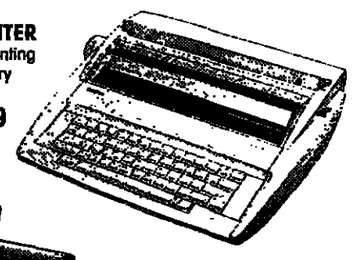
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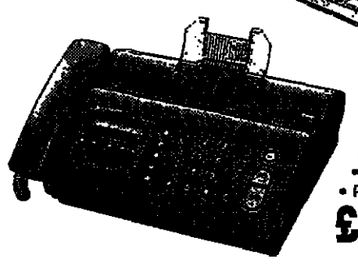
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King Fahd's illness raises concerns over ageing heirs

By Michael Theodoulou

ASSURANCES by the Saudi royal court yesterday that King Fahd was recovering from what American officials described as a mild stroke failed to dampen speculation about who would succeed the ruler of the world's leading oil power. The King, who is being treated by a team of American doctors, was said to be walking and talking again.

There is a news blackout on the exact nature of his illness but sources said yesterday he would broadcast to the nation as soon as he had recovered sufficiently

King Fahd, a chain smoker, is overweight and suffers from diabetes. Officially aged 73, he is said by insiders to be four years older. The King's illness at a time of economic, social and religious difficulties has added to questions about stability in the secretive kingdom. A bomb blast last month at the US headquarters of a Saudi National Guard training centre killed five Americans and two Indians.

Under King Fahd, Saudi Arabia has become the West's main military ally in the Gulf and since 1986 he has pursued a policy of supporting moderate oil prices and guaranteeing the world's energy needs. He was a leading power behind the scenes years before he acceded to the throne in June 1982 and was one of the principal architects of Saudi Arabia's modernisation, compressing 100 years of development into two decades.

Ostensibly, the succession is clear. The heir apparent is the King's half-brother, Crown Prince Abdullah, the First Deputy Prime Minister and commander of the National Guard, the kingdom's second and largely tribal army. Next in line is the King's full brother, Prince Sultan, the Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Aviation.



King Fahd: blackout on news of his condition

Like the King, however, both are in their 70s and their possible reigns could well be short. After them, the line of succession is more confused since their father, Abdul-Aziz al-Saud, fathered 44 sons by 22 wives. Seven sons were born of the same mother, a daughter of the al-Sudeiri tribe. King Fahd, eldest of the seven, is Saudi Arabia's fifth king.

Some analysts believe Crown Prince Abdullah, who is viewed as conservative and authoritarian, could face opposition among the 6,000 princes of the ruling dynasty, many of them ambitious and capable men. Unlike King Fahd, he is handicapped by having no full brothers for support and would have to be careful not to upset the powerful al-Sudeiri brothers. His languages are poor and he stutters even in his native tongue.

Under Crown Prince Abdullah's command, the National Guard used draconian measures to quell pro-democracy protests last year when more than 1,000 people were arrested. Reports that he is anti-American are exaggerated, but he is not as warm towards Washington as King Fahd. The Americans would prefer Prince Sultan, although he has been tarnished by allegations of corruption.

Diplomats and oil industry analysts expect little change under either. "They would keep Saudi Arabia pretty much on the same course, gradually bringing in their own men," one said.



Prince Saud al-Faisal, left, the Foreign Minister, with Crown Prince Abdullah

Victorious troops raise Sri Lankan flag over Jaffna

From Christopher Thomas in Colombo

THE Sri Lankan flag was hoisted at noon yesterday in Jaffna City, marking the Government's military victory over the Tamil Tigers in the 12-year civil war and shattering the guerrillas' myth of invincibility.

Up to 50,000 civilians, soldiers, sailors and airmen have died since the war began in July 1983. Hundreds were killed in the latest operation, which took 49 days, to drive the Tigers out of the headquarters of their de facto homeland.

Senior military officers, standing beneath the national flag with its emblem of the lion, spoke of a "great victory" but emphasised that it was over the Tigers, not the 2.5 million Tamil community. The Government is at pains to draw this distinction. It wants Tamils to return to their heartland, and is thus keen to minimise the sense of humiliation and defeat that many feel.

Operation Riviresa (Sunshine) succeeded where others failed because it was backed by unprecedented political and military will. Crucially, India stayed silent, which set the tone for the rest of the international community, despite the displacement of up to 400,000 Tamil civilians.

The Tigers, perceived as fanatical and intransigent, have lost international goodwill. India has spurned them since the 1991 assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister, allegedly by the Tigers. The fighters now will revert to guerrilla warfare.

The ten Tamil political parties met President Bandaranaike Kumaratunga yesterday to discuss her devolution plans. They want her to press ahead quickly. Sinhalese hardliners, however, will argue that there should be no compromise now the Tigers have been humiliated.

A fresh general election to boost her one-vote majority in the National Assembly may be the only political route left open if she is to retain the trust of the Tamil minority, who have been touched by her admission that many wrongs were committed against them.

$1m book deal for grandchild of Rabin

From Quentin Letts in New York and Christopher Walker in Jerusalem

YITZHAK RABIN'S 18-year-old granddaughter, who spoke through tears at the murdered Israeli leader's funeral last month, has landed a US publishing deal said to be worth $1 million (£649,350).

Noa Ben-Artzi Pilosof will write a memoir of her grandfather for the New York publisher, Alfred Knopf. Jonathan Segal, a senior editor, said: "It will be partially a remembrance of her grandfather but also a cri de coeur for her generation of Israelis".

A sombre Israel yesterday marked the end of the *Shloshim* or 30-day mourning period for Rabin. While the nation's leaders joined the family in the winter wind at Mount Herzl cemetery before a state memorial ceremony, Yigal Amir, 25, was formally charged with premeditated murder; his elder brother, Haggai, and a friend, Dror Adani, were charged with conspiracy to murder.

Doomsday Clock fate in hands of public

From Tom Rhodes in Washington

THE Doomsday Clock, for 48 years a barometer of Soviet-American relations during the Cold War, faces possible extinction tomorrow when the public decides whether the icon of superpower confrontation should be kept running or put out of commission.

The drawing of a clock face, which first appeared on the cover of *The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists* in June 1947, has been fixed at 17 minutes before nuclear midnight since 1991.

For the first time, a hearing at the University of Chicago for the *Bulletin's* fiftieth anniversary, will allow the public to help to "set" the hands.

Advocates admit that *Doomsday* is a misnomer. "We're no longer talking about nuclear incineration," said Steven Aftergood, of the Federation of American Scientists. "If people are getting their information about international affairs from looking at the clock, then they are in trouble anyway."

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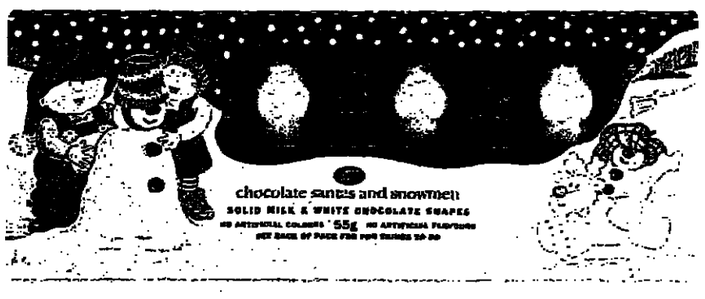
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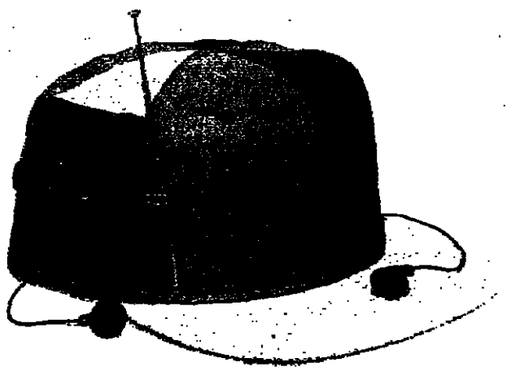
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Peking rains curses on its rebellious 'demons'

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

PEKING in the course of the last week has called Chris Patten, Governor of Hong Kong, "a great dictator"; Lee Teng-hui, President of Taiwan, "a god-like dictator"; and the Dalai Lama a "cheat", "meddler", "betrayer", "saboteur" and "dictator of an inhuman serfdom".

Hong Kong, Taiwan and Tibet, in Peking's eyes, are "lost" or restive "frontier" regions. For more than 2,000 years, such areas were a great imperial concern, since they were populated by people whose loyalty was suspect. In the 7th century Tibetan cavalry briefly seized the Chinese capital. Dangerous frontier leaders could establish "barbarian" dynasties such as the Yuan between 1206 to 1368 and the Qing from 1644 to 1911.

Peking insists Hong Kong, Taiwan and Tibet are domestic matters dragged into the international arena by men of ill will. When China's leaders rain their rhetorical fire on Mr Patten, Mr Lee and the Dalai Lama, Tibet's temporal and spiritual leader, they are continuing a tradition of demonising its enemies.

During the first two years of his role here as Governor, Mr Patten was excoriated as a "whore", "serpent", "Buddha" and "disgraced for a thousand years". Mr Lee has been described as "the root and source" of the present bad state of Sino-American relations, while the Dalai Lama is normally "the criminal splittist Dalai". Mr Patten, President Lee and the Dalai Lama are all scapegoats who serve as a warning to others to shun their ideas or policies.

Since 1949, when the Communists came to power, it has been claimed that the citizens of Hong Kong, Taiwan and Tibet welcome the prospect of reunion with the motherland; in Taiwan and Tibet this process is being delayed by traitors.

> "Mr Patten, Mr Lee and the Dalai Lama are scapegoats who serve as a warning to shun their policies"

In Hong Kong, Peking charges, Mr Patten has wrecked what would have been a smooth handover of British sovereignty in 1997.

Tibet is the trickiest of its problems: almost no Tibetans outside China support Peking's claim that Tibet has been part of China for more than 1,000 years. The cultural differences between China and Tibet — in language, religion, customs, food and dress, marriage and burial — are profound.

It is wormwood to Peking that the Dalai Lama continues to be worshipped by his people and that, although no country recognises Tibetan independence, the Dalai Lama is respected globally — even, though cautiously, in the White House — and has been awarded the Nobel Prize.

Taiwan's indigenous people have long been uneasy under the rule of the Nationalists, composed of refugees from the mainland, and almost everyone dreads their prospects if China should ever become their sovereign power. In Hong Kong, the population has been swollen by millions of refugees from communism, and polls show fear and apathy as 1997 approaches.

Peking cannot accept the meagre enthusiasm for the motherland in Taiwan and Hong Kong. Missile tests failed to prevent Taiwan's recent parliamentary elections. In Hong Kong, verbal abuse has not deterred citizens from voting for democrats. In Tibet, Peking's use last week of an arcane Buddhist ritual to select a Panchen Lama will convince few that China's choice, and not the Dalai Lama's nominee, is the genuine incarnation.

In China, too, problems appear easier to deal with if a handful of people or a person can be blamed.

At the beginning of the Cultural Revolution, in 1966, the two key targets for Maoists were President Liu Shaoqi and Deng Xiaoping, then General Secretary of the Communist Party. After Mao Tse-tung's death, blame for the Cultural Revolution's catastrophic events was placed on the Gang of Four instead of the late Chairman. Almost no attempt was made to fathom how a few people were able to mobilise millions into attacking and killing millions of comrades.

Among the dissidents today, the key target is Wei Jingsheng who spent almost 15 years in jail from 1979, before being briefly released. Last month he was charged with trying to overthrow the State.

In Taiwan and Tibet, Peking has achieved little success in turning the people against President Lee and the Dalai Lama. In Hong Kong, the attacks on Mr Patten have been welcomed by those Chinese and foreigners who disapprove of his democratic reforms and, increasingly, by some in government who know that close association with him will cost them dear when their new master takes over. But last week, when a senior Peking official called Mr Patten a crazed driver who will not qualify for a licence in 1997, even some of those eager to placate China felt this was an insult too far.



MPs scuffle as the parliament in Taipei reviews a Bill on housing for army veterans. Feelings are running high after an election in which the ruling Nationalists were weakened. The Speaker's gavel was used as a weapon in yesterday's brawl

Chinese 'missile diplomacy' scares voters in Taiwan

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

GENERAL elections in Taiwan resulted in an increase in support for unification with the mainland — an indication that large-scale military manoeuvres by China before the polls unnerved voters.

China conducted missile tests off Taiwan's northern coast and mock amphibious landings on the beaches of Fujian opposite the prosperous island. Some diplomats here believe one result of the election could be to encourage China — especially hardliners in the armed forces — that military pressure, or so-called "missile diplomacy", scares voters in Taiwan. Before Taiwan's first presidential elections next March, the mainland is expected to step up military exercises again.

"We can expect to see more military manoeuvres in the months ahead," one envoy here said yesterday.

Peking has made no official comment on the outcome of the elections, which showed a drop in support for the ruling Nationalists and the modest rise of a third party that supports unification. There have been no reports of the results on state-run Chinese radio, television or in newspapers.

However, the senior Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, Chen Jian, in his first press briefing since last Saturday's election, insisted that "Taiwan is a part of China and the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal Government of the whole of China. We make no comment on the election on Taiwan. All the political forces and parties inside Taiwan should contribute to the peaceful unification of China."

He described the recent military manoeuvres, said by analysts to have frightened some Taiwanese into voting for the New Party, which supports a non-confrontational stance with China, as "normal exercises". They showed that the "PLA has the resolve and capability to safeguard the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the motherland".

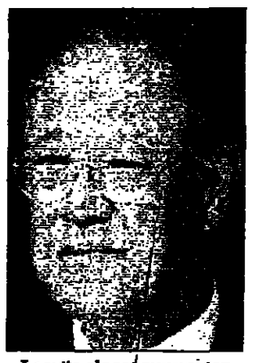
Analysts note that China has never renounced the use of force as a last resort for "liberating" Taiwan.

The governing Nationalist (or Kuomintang) Party, headed by President Lee Teng-hui, retained a narrow majority but its number of parliamentary seats fall from 102 to 85. The party's share of the vote dropped to 49.9 per cent, under 50 per cent for the first time.

Although the Nationalists — who retreated to Taiwan with their leader, Chiang Kai-shek, in 1949 — officially support unification when China adopts a more democratic system, Peking considers Mr Lee a closet supporter of independence and the *People's Daily*, the party organ, calls him "a dictator". On Monday, Mr Lee confirmed that "democracy and freedom on the mainland is a prerequisite to national unification".

The Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), which leans towards independence for Taiwan, increased its membership in the legislature to 54 representatives from 50, but this was well short of its 60-seat target and some members blamed China's "missile diplomacy" for the shortfall.

Meanwhile, the New Party, which accepts the Peking view that Taiwan is part of China and favours closer ties with the mainland, won 21 seats in the Legislative *Yuan*, three times more than it had previously. Its support comes mostly from second-generation mainlanders, often old soldiers, living around Taipei, the capital.



Lee: "a closet supporter of independence"

"Whatever you say about the Nationalists, in the end they were willing to test their popularity at the ballot box," said one diplonat in Peking, commenting on Peking's silence about the poll result. "Perhaps Chinse leaders fear that their own people may one day demand the same example from the Communist Party."

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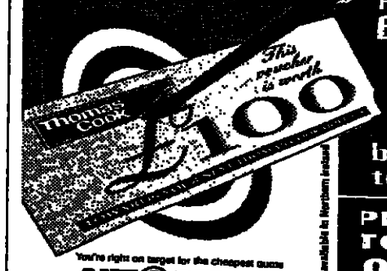


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Clinton aims for Christmas visit to troops in Bosnia

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton hopes to pay a Christmas visit to Bosnia-Herzegovina as a symbolic gesture after the dispatch of 20,000 American troops to enforce peace in the region.

Despite denials by the Administration yesterday that Mr Clinton would make a fleeting trip to Sarajevo after the Paris signing of the Dayton, Ohio, accord on December 14, a White House official admitted that plans were under way for a later visit.

"It is definitely something that is still being contemplated," said the official. "The question is whether he goes early on in the Nato mission or whether we wait until there are signs of success on the ground. The President would prefer to make a symbolic visit around Christmas if possible."

In an earlier public statement, the White House said there were no plans for the President to go after the Paris signing. "There is no serious consideration being given to that," said Mary Ellen Glynn, the Deputy Press Secretary, who was "unaware" of plans for a possible later visit.

But the Pentagon is said to be working on details for what would almost certainly become a "stealth" operation to fly Mr Clinton in and out of Bosnia with the least fanfare.

The first month of deployment will see half of the American force on the ground and it may be that Mr Clinton would rather wait until all the US soldiers have arrived. Plans for such a trip would involve enormous security detail, at a time when the Administration is concerned about what Americans will face on arrival in Tuzla and, more importantly, Zenica — two areas of US deployment.

More than 200 members of Iran's Revolutionary Guard have been training the Bosnian Army and American officials believe they pose a threat to incoming Western troops.

The most important condition for congressional approval of the Clinton mission centres round a prepared exit strategy for Americans, including their own training and arming of the Bosnians. This could bring them into conflict with Iranians and other Mujahidin who continue to exert a strong influence in parts of central Bosnia.

William Perry, the Defence Secretary, discarded fears of the Iranians among his Pentagon staff and said he had received assurances from Haris Silajdzic, the Bosnian Prime Minister, this week that all 2,000 foreign Muslim fighters would be removed within 30 days of the signing in Paris. "We can count on them to do that," said Mr Perry. "We have no reason to doubt that they are going to be able to fulfil that requirement."

The Pentagon said American troops would be armed with advanced weaponry and use tactics specially tailored for the Bosnian mission, including speedier U2 spy plane pictures, anti-sniper teams and tanks equipped for blowing up landmines.

Psychological operation groups will prepare leaflets, radio broadcasts and posters in Serbo-Croat advising residents that the Nato force comes in peace but is well prepared to defend itself.

Former President George Bush, who led America in the Gulf War, said yesterday he had misgivings about the Bosnia mission but urged Congress to support the deployment of American soldiers.

☐ **Brussels:** Nato foreign and defence ministers endorsed in a rare joint session yesterday a plan to send 60,000 troops to Bosnia to police the peace accord. The plan will only receive final authorisation after the signing of the peace agreement in Paris and the passing of a United Nations Security Council resolution, at about the same time, transferring responsibility for Bosnia from the UN to Nato. *(Reuter)*

British stars set sights on Oscars

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

EMMA THOMPSON emerged from the American premiere of her latest film exchanging fond glances with Greg Wise, with whom she has been romantically linked since her separation from her actor husband, Kenneth Branagh.

Also accompanied by Hugh Grant, who stars with her in her adaptation of Jane Austen's *Sense And Sensibility*, Ms Thompson has professional reasons to appear contented, too: the film is being touted as a strong contender for "Best Film" and "Best Actress" Oscars.

Mr Grant and his girlfriend, Elizabeth Hurley, braved a barrage of cameras as they left the premiere at the Samuel Goldwyn cinema in Beverly Hills.

After a fallow year in 1994, in which her only new role was as Arnold Schwarzenegger's girlfriend in *Junior*, and the failure of her marriage, Ms Thompson is once again the toast of Hollywood. She is also appearing in *Carrington*, as Lytton Strachey's lover.



Emma Thompson with co-star Hugh Grant, after the Beverly Hills premiere

US court rules out slavery damages

BY GILES WHITTELL

THE wrongs of slavery, however heinous, do not entitle today's blacks to compensation or a government apology, a US appeals court has ruled.

Three federal San Francisco judges voted unanimously to reject a long-running lawsuit by seven blacks claiming $100 million (£65 million) in damages for the enslavement of their ancestors.

The suit was filed by the Reparations Committee for African Americans. It had been dismissed without a hearing by one federal judge, the first black woman to hold such a post in northern California. The enslavement of Africans was inexcusable, Judge Sandra Armstrong had ruled, but redress should come from Congress.

The 13th amendment to the Constitution abolished the "badges and incidents" of slavery but does not authorise litigation, the judges said.

It remains to be seen whether their ruling silences lawyers appealing against the sentences of black death row inmates on the ground that the vast majority of death sentences are on blacks.

'Sweet prince' bitter over guilty verdict

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

HAMLET, Prince of Denmark, has been found guilty of manslaughter. Shakespeare's "sweet prince" was tried by the New York Bar Association for the fatal stabbing of Polonius. Had he lived, he would be facing 40 years in jail.

Two prominent New York lawyers conducted the prosecution and defence, while Hamlet, played by an actor, Stephen Lang, stood morosely in the dock.

Herman Badillo, defending, said that Hamlet was the victim of a political set-up. He claimed that Polonius was, in fact, killed by Claudius, who entered Gertrude's bedroom by a secret passage, stabbed the elderly courtier behind the arras and then left the room by the same concealed door.

Raoul Felder, prosecuting, said this was a blatant attempt to rewrite the plot. "They call Hamlet a prince, but he's a 30-year-old mamma's boy who is still at school and living at home," he said. "I've got a brother-in-law like that. We call him a bum."

The trial was held to raise funds for the reconstruction of the Globe theatre in London. The evening was introduced by Douglas Fairbanks Jr. Justice was administered with a swiftness rare in American courts. The entire hearing took 90 minutes.

The defence, citing ancient Danish law, questioned the legality of Claudius's crown and argued that Hamlet, as the rightful King, was above the law.

As the verdict was announced, Hamlet was led from the court, shouting: "Now you know why it is called the tragedy of Hamlet!"

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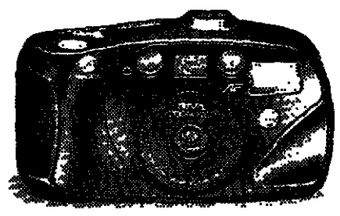


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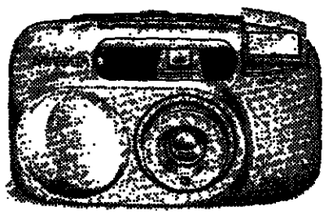
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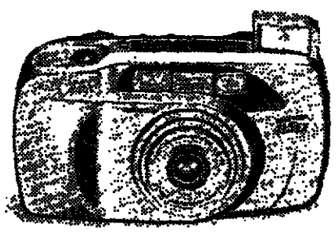
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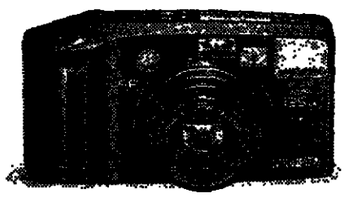
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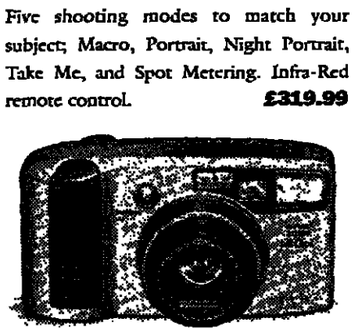
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Embattled Juppé faces split in coalition as Government's options to end unrest diminish

Chirac ready for fight to the finish with strikers

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRANCE is in crisis, convulsed by the worst industrial unrest for nearly three decades, but President Chirac still has several options, none of them easy.

He could dissolve parliament and call fresh elections or hold a referendum; he could throw in the towel and abandon the Government's welfare reform package; or, most likely, he can tough it out in the hope that the strikes will eventually run out of steam and public support.

Government officials have so far played down the possibility of a political solution to the conflict. To hold a referendum would be to gamble with the presidency since M Chirac's stature might never recover from a popular rejection of the government line.

Socialists made substantial gains in seven by-elections last Sunday in a clear indication of the way the political wind is blowing. The President is unlikely to jeopardise the Government's four-fifths majority by holding a snap election.

French governments have a record of capitulation before union might, and if the strikes continue to spread and popular support does not begin to crumble soon, M Chirac may cut his losses by jettisoning the welfare reform plan and with it, Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister.

If M Chirac buckles, the results will be momentous, since almost any subsequent attempt to reduce France's deficit and reform the bloated social security system would surely be doomed: financial markets would pounce, the *franc fort* policy would probably disintegrate, France's ability to meet the criteria for monetary union would be critically undermined, and the entire EMU plan might well crash and burn.

The President's most likely path — and the only one that will ensure M Juppé's political survival — is to hold the line against the unions, in the belief that in the run-up to Christmas the public mood will turn against the strikers. The Government can also take heart from the low level of response to strike calls within the private sector.

M Juppé's chances of weathering the storm depend in large measure on his ability to maintain cohesion within the ruling coalition, but even before he addressed parliament last night he faced signs of uncertainty within the ranks. Most notably Philippe Séguin, parliamentary Speaker and the man often tipped as M Juppé's successor, met striking train drivers in his mayoral fiefdom of Epinal and promised to "faithfully relay" their grievances to the President and Prime Minister.

This was hardly the staunch support M Juppé so badly needs, and many compared M Séguin's much photographed encounter to an earlier occasion when François Mitterrand, the former President, also welcomed strikers then locked in a bitter battle with another conservative Prime Minister, Jacques Chirac.

While the Government has reaffirmed its determination to push through reforms, the unions are also digging in for an extended confrontation. Marc Blondel, leader of the Force Ouvrière union, announced yesterday that he was setting up a public fund to compensate strikers.

"We are set for a difficult battle and we have every reason to hold out for as long as possible," M Blondel said, while promising a "fight to the bitter end".

France was paralysed again yesterday with no trains running, public transport in Paris at a standstill and mass demonstrations in main cities to mark yet another day of action. Many schools closed after teachers joined striking postal and electricity company workers, dockers, museum staff, students, hospital workers and many others in a chorus of protest against the Juppé welfare reforms. More than 40 per cent of all telephone company employees answered yesterday's new strike call.

The unrest claimed its first serious casualty when a 14-year-old boy was injured as a motorist drove a car into a group of school student protesters in the Paris suburb of Cergy-Pontoise. The boy was treated for head injuries and the driver was being held by police last night.

Stoppages hit Italy

Milan: Buses, trams and Metro services were brought to a standstill in north Italy yesterday by an eight-hour strike of city transport workers pressing for improved work conditions.

Officials said further eight-hour stoppages would follow today in central Italy and tomorrow in the south. A nationwide 24-hour strike has also been called for December 15 by unions representing the urban transport workers.

Giovanni Caravale, the Transport Minister, had ordered air traffic controllers to postpone their strike action yesterday, but it was too late for Alitalia, the state airline, to reinstate all scheduled flights. Alitalia said it could not guarantee a full service for 48 hours. *(Reuter)*

PETER NICHOLLS



Some of the tens of thousands of strikers who marched through Paris yesterday to defend their welfare benefits

Spanish ski resort blessed by snow

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

FOR the first time in four years, snow was falling yesterday at Europe's most southerly ski resort in the Sierra Nevada, near Granada, in time for Spain's annual five-day Constitutional holiday.

It was the weather the Spanish organisers of the World Alpine Ski Championships had prayed for. Last winter they had to cancel their championship because of lack of snow, but now they are "90 per cent sure" their £800 million investment will prove worthwhile. Forecasts are for "lots more snow" in time for Sierra Nevada 96 in February next year, a spokesman for the organising committee said.

The snow is also good for the drought-stricken Andalusian region that includes the Costa del Sol.

The revamped ski station, which has 26 ski runs, is equipped with 118 snow cannon. These need conditions of 30 to 40 per cent humidity and zero degrees or below to be effective.

Yesterday it was minus 3C (26F).

Metro's pampered pests bite the dust in Paris siege

BY BEN MACINTYRE

MILLIONS of crickets survived the Nazi occupation during Second World War living in the Paris Metro. But with the underground system closed and unheated for the past 13 days and no rubbish for them to feed on, they are dying by the hundreds, according to *Le Figaro*.

The crickets are a pampered breed, thriving in a climate which has a year-round temperature of between 27C and 34C (27-93F). Since the Metro closed, however, the temperature has plummeted to near-freezing. M Juppé, the Prime Minister, has much in common with the crickets. His chances of survival — and theirs — dwindle with every day of the strike.

Embattled Parisians are adopting a siege mentality — stockpiling essential goods, pooling resources and grumbling, not altogether unhappily, about a labour dispute with no end in sight. "You would think it was 1945," one Paris butcher observed yesterday.

As the crippling transport strike drags through its second week and drivers of heavy goods vehicles join the protest by blocking key roads, fears of shortages are growing. In recent days supermarkets have reported a run on cooking oil, sugar, flour, bottled water and milk. While most shops have seen profits sharply reduced, sales of foodstuffs have leapt by 15 per cent and the demand for home delivery has doubled. The hoarding is irrational, since for the time-being at least the transport stoppage has not prevented the delivery of most goods.

Inevitably, the crisis has evoked memories of earlier times. "I lived in Paris during the war. We had to sleep in our fur coats," a friend told me.

The French have a phrase for the survivalist spirit: Système-D, which stands for *débrouiller* — to manage, sort yourself out, muddle through by making do. Système-D is everywhere, combined with an uncharacteristic outpouring of neighbourly compassion: car pools; makeshift crèches for working families hit by the growing teachers' strike; overnight beds offered to stranded commuters.

"We are at a crossroads," President Chirac told frozen France from sunny Benin, where he was attending a conference of francophone African states.

At the crossroads of Avenue de l'Opéra and the Rue de Rivoli on Monday, a traffic jam of such complexity had built up that the policeman in control had given up and sat glumly on a bollard, watching as the cars, buses and lorries furiously tied themselves in ever tighter knots.



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Isolated Britain faces clash at Madrid summit

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN is heading for a clash with the rest of the European Union at the Madrid summit next week over its refusal to go along with any further weakening of the veto over Brussels decisions or an extension of EU powers.

John Major is also expected to be at odds with leading EU nations as he argues that the timetable for the introduction of a single currency is unrealistic.

The British Government was again isolated in Brussels yesterday, with the French accusing it of acting as a brake on the EU. Britain's outright opposition to the extension of qualified majority voting proved the most controversial feature of a six-month report on future EU options.

After publication of the report of the so-called Reflection Group, Britain's representative, David Davis, the European affairs minister, rejected suggestions that Britain would compromise at next year's inter-governmental conference. He said the objection was one of principle.

The issue is certain to be hotly contested at the summit, starting on December 15. Tomorrow Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and President Chirac of France are expected to agree their own menu for change; they will put it forward in Madrid. France is said to be winning support for its plan to link an extension of qualified majority voting with a reweighting of the votes to give more clout to the big member states. The scheme would give Germany the biggest say in EU affairs.

But the summit may be dominated by new differences over the single currency. Yesterday Mr Major discussed monetary union with Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, who is touring European capitals. In Florence today Mr Major will seek to win the backing of Lamberto Dini, the Italian Prime Minister, over the impracticality of the Maastricht timetable for a European single currency. Britain is braced for moves in Madrid by Germany and its allies to reaffirm the Maastricht timetable.

Italy's economic problems mean that it is almost certain to fail to secure the conditions for joining a single currency by the Maastricht deadline of 1999. Italian support for a postponement would take some of the steam out of the debate within the Tory party over the issue. A senior political source said: "We are three years away from when all this is supposed to happen. Do we really believe that in 36 months the EU will be ready to have a single currency across any significant number of countries?"

After the publication of the Reflection Group report yesterday, Carlos Westendorp, the chairman, predicted that Britain would eventually lift its opposition and relinquish some of its veto powers. Britain was a pragmatic nation, Señor Westendorp said.

Britain's resistance to extension of majority voting and the broadening of EU powers appeared throughout the final report, which offers a compendium of options for adapting the EU for future enlargement and makes clear there is no consensus on the need for any radical reforms.

Mr Davis welcomed what he said was the recognition that the EU was in no mood for a big shake-up. "We are looking at a relatively modest outcome at the end of the inter-governmental conference (IGC). There was not much consensus for many of the grand ideas," he said.

He also predicted that the IGC, a series of negotiations due to open in Turin in March, would not end until after the next British election.

Swansong for a tough operator

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN MADRID



Westendorp: known for his quick and acid wit

CARLOS WESTENDORP, who yesterday said he believed Britain will eventually relinquish some of its veto powers in the European Union, is an affable craftsman of traditional Brussels compromises. He has a legendary reputation as a tough advocate for Spanish interests, and his wit is quick and acid. He greeted the Danish rejection of Maastricht with "something is rotten in the state of Denmark".

Señor Westendorp, Spain's Minister for Europe, who has held the ring in the EU's Reflection Group for the past six months, is a southerner with northern roots. His grandfather was a Dutch tea merchant who settled in Málaga in search of a climate to suit his weak constitution. He learnt his English during university summer holidays spent in Hounslow and has been immersed in the intricacies of the EU for 25 years.

The Reflection Group report is his swansong: now 58, he is likely to lose his job early next year if the Socialist Government falls from power.

Although he dodges the question, he plainly shares the common belief in most EU capitals that the final deals on a new treaty can only be cut after a British election has delivered a Labour Government.

France bolsters its links with Nato

BY CHARLES BREMNER

THE Nato alliance received a boost yesterday when France announced it was moving partially back into its military wing nearly 30 years after President de Gaulle withdrew to assert Gallic independence.

Hervé de Charette, the Foreign Minister, broke the news that the Gaullist Government of President Chirac would rejoin Nato's military committee, giving it a voice in alliance operations, as ministers gathered in Brussels to plan the peace operation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

They also formally appointed Javier Solana, the Spanish Foreign Minister, as the Nato Secretary-General in succession to Willy Claes, who was forced out in a Belgian political scandal in October.

The French move was seen as the natural consequence of Paris's increasing involvement in Nato's new role as a peace-enforcer now that it was no longer the American-dominated pole in the Cold War stand-off against Moscow. French air and sea forces have been operating with the Nato command in the Balkans. With 10,000 French troops about to take part in the Nato-led army in Bosnia, Paris was anxious for a formal role in the chain of command.

"It's a case of the institutions catching up with reality," a British official said.

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, welcomed the French decision to upgrade its military ties with Nato, saying it was testimony to the fact that "the security of Europe in the future, as in the past, will rest on the Atlantic alliance".

However, in a sign of France's continuing insistence on its sovereignty, M de Charette said it would stay out of the defence planning committee and the nuclear planning group. "This is nothing to do with rejoining the old Nato," a French official in Brussels said. "This is about developing a new Nato as a force for pan-European security."

France is especially eager for influence in the transformation as Nato extends its membership to the former Warsaw Pact nations of East and Central Europe.



Diplomats in Brussels congratulate Javier Solana, Nato's new Secretary-General

Paris enticed by change in the alliance's role

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

FRANCE'S decision to become more involved in Nato's military decision-making process without formally rejoining the integrated structure has been an evolutionary development that began more than three years ago.

As Nato's functions and missions began to change after the Cold War ended, France realised that it was missing out on helping to develop a new brand of the alliance by excluding its defence minister and military chiefs from key meetings.

Even now, after yesterday's statement in Brussels, France has not agreed to become a full member of the Defence Planning Committee and Military Committee, but only to play a part when Nato is discussing new missions such as peacekeeping and also crisis management.

However, although France is still shy of becoming completely involved, its allies were convinced yesterday that the French would be represented on the Defence Planning Committee, the Military Committee and perhaps in the Nuclear Planning Group.

The first moves towards closer involvement began when France sent a representative to attend a meeting of the Military Committee as Bosnia-Herzegovina became the key issue for the alliance.

With France contributing the most troops to Bosnia, it was imperative Paris attend relevant Nato meetings. However, while France has always attended foreign ministers' meetings as a full member of the political alliance, membership of the planning committee was still taboo.

One possible compromise, according to British officials, was for France to adopt the Spanish approach. Spain is also outside the integrated structure but has a number of agreements to make available Spanish units in the event of an attack on an alliance country. France has also indicated that French troops would be "there on the day", without making it official policy.

WORLD SUMMARY

Bomb explodes in Duma

Moscow: An explosion yesterday destroyed the office of an extreme right-wing deputy in the Russian Duma, the lower house of parliament, raising fears of further political violence before parliamentary elections on December 17.

Witnesses at the Duma building in central Moscow said that a small bomb blew out the window and door of the office belonging to Nikolai Lysenko, leader of the neo-Fascist National Republican Party. No one was injured.

In another incident, three children were killed and nine people wounded after a man burst into a kindergarten in the North Ossetian capital of Vladikavkaz, took a class hostage and detonated two grenades, police said.

Roh charged with bribery

Roh Tae Woo, the former President of South Korea, was charged yesterday with taking 283.9 billion won (£226 million) in bribes from businesses (Peregrine Hodson writes).

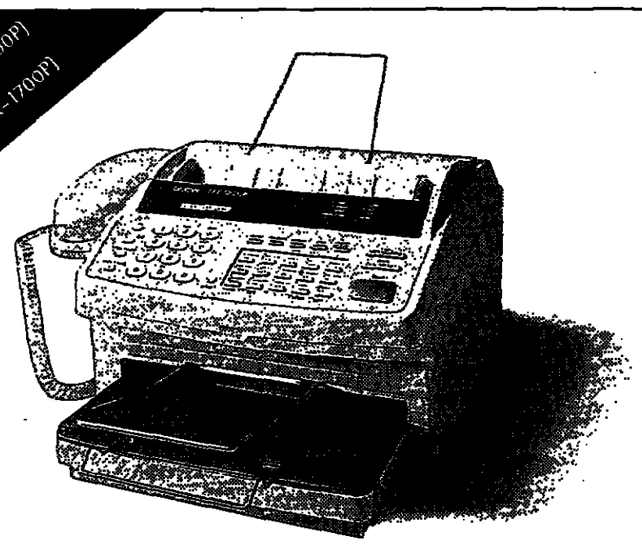
The prosecution said Mr Roh had collected a total of 418.9 billion won. In a sign that President Kim Young Sam intends to break with the past era of money politics, the scandal is widening to include prominent business leaders.

Children die as dam is opened

Grenoble: Six children and their teacher were confirmed dead after they were engulfed by a wall of water caused by the opening of sluice gates in a dam, officials said. The children, members of a school group, were swept away in a torrent that roared down the River Drac. Seventeen other children and two adults escaped unhurt. *(AFP)*

Barking ticket

Portland, Maine: A man who teased a police dog by barking at it when it was in a parked patrol car was arrested and ordered to appear in court accused of taunting the German shepherd. *(AP)*



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Marks & Spencer has added stylish looks to its value for money

Designer chic - from the high street saint

Fashion journalist of the year



IAIN R. WEBB

As we approach the party season there is one high street company which will be celebrating in style this Christmas. Marks & Spencer has successfully repackaged itself as a fashion label, and this year even infiltrated the hallowed pages of *Vogue*.

"What happens in fashion at the mass market level is that the silhouette evolves slowly, but every season there are key items to update the wardrobe," says Lisa Armstrong, the associate editor at *Vogue*. "M&S always has those items, which is great because you don't need to spend a lot to get the right look. It now has designers on board, and is really being quite bold. You can certainly feel their input."

What Armstrong finds most startling is the dramatic about-turn in the public's reaction toward the company. "In the fashion business there is now a cachet in finding something from M&S before everyone else," she says.

Previously, the M&S marketing strategy focused on quality and good value — and it worked. Most people have worn St Michael underwear at some point in their lives (the company sells 19,000 pairs of knickers a day), and the label's classic knitwear has always provided value for money.

"So many high street companies focus on quality but they forget that there is no point in having fabulous fabric if the look is frumpy," Armstrong says. So this year M&S added style to the agenda. Not since the 1980s, when George Davis unveiled the Next chain (and accompanying mail-order facility), has one company had such an effect on the appearance of the nation. Suddenly there were supermodels wearing clothes which cost less than their hourly fee, as M&S marketed its new image by using Christy Turlington and Linda Evangelista shot by hot fashion photographers.

A key figure in the new-look M&S is the former deputy chairman, Clinton Silver, who retired from the position last year. Silver, who is now chairman of the British Fashion Council, made it his mission to make fashion more accessible by offering affordable, up-to-the-minute merchandise.

Brian Godbold, who heads the team of designers, buyers and merchandisers, believes that M&S has always offered fashion at a price, but that more and more in the Nineties people have spent their income on items other than fashion, which has made them much more value conscious. However, he does admit that there has been a shift in emphasis toward their fashion merchandise. "We have always concentrated on getting the classics right," Godbold says. "When that is in place you achieve a wider customer base which allows you to experiment. Increasingly we have tried to get the fashion right.

"We work 18 months ahead of the season, so we are getting the same research and inspiration that the fashion houses get. We have 30 designers in-house, and our top six manufacturers employ many more. They are all of a high calibre. The last two designers we lost joined the Calvin Klein organisation in New York."

Godbold and his team have certainly succeeded in transforming the high street. This season there is an excellent choice, be it something to wow them at the office party, or simply a little number you can indulge yourself with if you're staying at home over the festive season.

The red velvet trouser-suit is a real winner. The single-breasted jacket is a useful wardrobe filler, adding a little luxury to a daytime look. Wear it with a straight skirt, or over a shift dress. It also looks great with jeans and a white shirt.

The latest jean-style trousers from M&S are cut in stretch satin and are reminiscent of the glitzy Studio 54 disco duds of Liza Minnelli and Bianca Jagger. This season, wear them with a devore velvet shirt, which also comes in plain black. The brave or the finger-on-the-pulse fashion fan will wear it over a black satin bustier *à la* Dolce & Gabanna's underwear-as-outerwear look.

M&S has a huge selection of slinky lingerie which would make a great present for any woman. Red and black are still the best sellers at Christmas. For those who want something a little less overt, slip into a milky white matt-and-shine tunic top, cut in slippery satin crepe. Nothing looks easier for entertaining at home, or makes a more comfortable option.

Naturally, there are an endless variety of black dresses. The little cocktail dress is popular. A good basic is a short, shoestring strap number with the minimum of decoration, such as diamanté buckles. A good cover-up is a fitted single-breasted black tuxedo jacket with satin lapels and turn-back cuffs. This jacket would also look good with the stretch satin jeans.

Of course, what makes these designs from M&S most appealing are the realistic price-tags. By keeping the costs low, the company allows the customer to share in the flavour of fashion without risking costly mistakes. Ultimately, this turns every purchase into a real gift.

Photographs by JONATHAN BOOKALLIL. Make-up by Ruby Hammer. Hair by James Dodds.

TOP LEFT: Red velvet jacket, £90; matching trousers, £40; black satin shirt, £25; black shiny belt, £8; all Marks & Spencer (inquiries 0171-935 4422).

TOP RIGHT: Red and black devore shirt, £50; black satin jeans, £35; black satin bustier, £15; red patent belt, £8; all Marks & Spencer. Red moc croc kitten-heel court shoes, £195, Senso, 23 Brompton Arcade, Knightsbridge, SW3 (0171-584 3484).

LEFT: Cream satin georgette tunic, £38; cream trousers, £45; both Marks & Spencer. Grey snake strappy shoes, £69.95, Sasha, 147 Oxford Street, W1 (0171-434 1467).

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Despite health warnings on the packet, the under-25s are rushing to light up, says **Giles Coren**

Why the young are dying for a smoke

It is midnight at the Green Room. For the last hour this subterranean drinking club in the Strand has been filling up with the more relaxed of London's trendy young things, attracted by the privacy of membership, pub prices, and a perfect position beneath — but aloof from — the throb of the West End.

It may be the healthy 1990s but make no mistake: the Green Room has nothing to do with the ozone layer or the rain forest. There are no fruit juice-drinking, salad-eating, eco-friendly joggers here. They wouldn't be able to breathe.

The air, what there is of it, is thick with the fug of swirling tobacco smoke. If the doorman likes the sound of your name at the buzzer, you will be sucked through the street door and down the dark green staircase hung with pictures of old films stars, long dead of emphysema. Nearing the bottom of the steps, in the hours after the pubs have closed, you know how an aeroplane feels when it drops suddenly into cloud.

In the dark, vaulted rooms, there is no uniformity of dress or appearance, accent, profession or background. The only obvious common factors are youth, and a burning fag in every hand.

Not since Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall made nicotine addicts of a generation has smoking been so fashionable. The supermodels all do it. Johnny Depp and Kate Moss, by doing it together, give it a fatalistic romance. Liz and Hugh were seen sharing a cigarette on a park bench at the height of their trauma. And everyone smoked in *Pulp Fiction*, the decade's most significant trend setter. The only places where no one smokes are hospitals, buses, offices, and *Hollyoaks* — refuges of the terminally unhip.

Here in the Green Room, as in any bar in any city where people under 25 meet to drink, smoking is *de rigueur*.

Statistics suggest that the Green Room is typical. A survey published last Thursday by the Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys shows that between the ages of 20 and 24, 40 per cent of men and 38 per cent of women are smokers — compared to an average figure for adults of only 27 per cent. They are the highest smoking age bracket, and have shown a steady increase since 1990.

Omid Nooshin, a 21-year-old film director, sits at a long table, looking over a storyboard. There are two cigarettes left in the packet of Marlboro Lights he bought that morning. He wiggles the brim of his baseball hat and reflects on why he puffs. "It isn't about aping my heroes, because my favourite directors, Spielberg and Scorsese, don't do it. But I can't deny that I quite like the way I look with a fag. And the health aspect certainly doesn't worry me — if anything I find the self-destructive element attractive."

Bella Swift, 23, (three left in a pack of Camel bought that afternoon in the bar where she works) takes an even more lugubrious line. "I do it *because* it will kill me," she drawls. "When I look at my parents clinging on to their miserable lives, drinking herbal tea and eating low-fat, high-fibre meals and polyunsaturated marge, I wonder what they are trying to keep alive. I don't want to give up just to spend the next 60 years jogging and eating fruit."



Smoking and sex appeal: Tallulah Bankhead

All of which is good news for Forest (Freedom Organisation for the Right to Enjoy Smoking Tobacco), which could do with some new recruits. "Most of our supporters are over 40," says Juliet Wallbridge, its campaign manager. "That is because young smokers are not afraid to stand up for their rights. The older you get, though, the more you need an organisation to help you feel you are not alone."

No one at the Green Room expressed any reservations about smoking in forbidden areas — it was part of the point, they said. But why go to places where no one is smoking anyway?

"It has a lot to do with fashion," Ms Wallbridge explains. "Whatever the anti-smoking groups like Ash [Action on Smoking and Health] say about brainwashing by advertisement, by the time you are over 18 it has a lot more to do with chic. In fact, the non-smoking lobby has probably done more to facilitate this boom than prevent it.

"Young people smoke to rebel. The more they are told not to, the more they are likely to do it. Ash has given cigarettes the allure of a forbidden fruit." And if you are young and single with a largely disposable income, you are very much in the forbidden-fruit market. As Green Room denizen Dee Pritchard (26, solicitor, 16 left in Silk Cut packet) points out: "The higher the price, the more desirable they are going to get."

Research shows that the four most popular brands among young people are also the four most heavily advertised — while smokers only gradually turn to the much cheaper brands as they creep towards penurious old age. At the Green Room the only brands on view were Marlboro, light and regular, Silk Cut, Camel and Benson & Hedges. If expense contributes to the glamour factor, so do those nicotine queens, the supermodels.

But the likes of Naomi Campbell and Nadja Auermann hardly need a drooping cancer stick to make themselves look desirable. So why do *they* do it?

"Boredom," says Carole White, director of top model agency Elite Premier. "It has nothing to do with keeping their weight down. It is because they spend so much time sitting around waiting. There is a high level of stress because they are not actually being creative themselves. It is just like a group of kids standing around smoking on a street corner."

The message, then, is that sucking a Marlboro Light does not mean you are as beautiful as Kate Moss. It just means you are as bored as she is. Aware of the influence they have on young people, Ms White says models now make an effort to avoid smoking in front of the cameras. "It is also unusual to see cigarettes on fashion pages these days. Only where there is quite hard editorial, in *The Face* for example, might they creep in. But never in *Marie Claire* or *Vogue*. It makes a girl look aggressive, which produces a strong picture, but makes her look less feminine."

There is, in fact, a more concrete reason for the differences in magazines' approaches to smoking, as Karen Williams, of Ash, explains: "By law, a women's style magazine cannot show models smoking if more than a quarter of its readership consists of women between 16 and 24. That excludes almost all of them. But the same thing does not apply to men. So *The Face*, *I-D*, and *GQ* can do it as much as they like."

Whoever is responsible for the style messages, they are certainly getting through. And the fatalism of modern youth is seeing off the challenge from the health educators.

"Young people don't smoke because of supermodels or television people," says Mariella Frostrup, whose gravelly voice bears witness to the fact that she has smoked since she was 14. "They smoke because they are without hope for the future."

She might almost be acting as a spokesperson for the fey nicotine slaves of the Green Room, hunched over their crackling Marlboro Lights, when she says: "They are so pessimistic, that it just doesn't enter their minds that they might live a long time."

As long as they do live, though, the new Bogeys and Bacalls, who drink and smoke and schmooze their way through the shadows beneath the metropolis, are certain of one thing. They want to live like *this*.

"Smoking is a mind thing," exhales Jack Theman, a 24-year-old management consultant, halfway through 20 Marlboro he bought at lunch time. "I always ask people whether they mind if I smoke. And then I smoke anyway."



POD MILLER

"Young people smoke to rebel. The more they are told not to, the more they are likely to do it. Ash has given cigarettes the allure of a forbidden fruit"

INSIDE SECTION 2
After Tarantino, who? Hollywood's bratpack directors go into action, page 36

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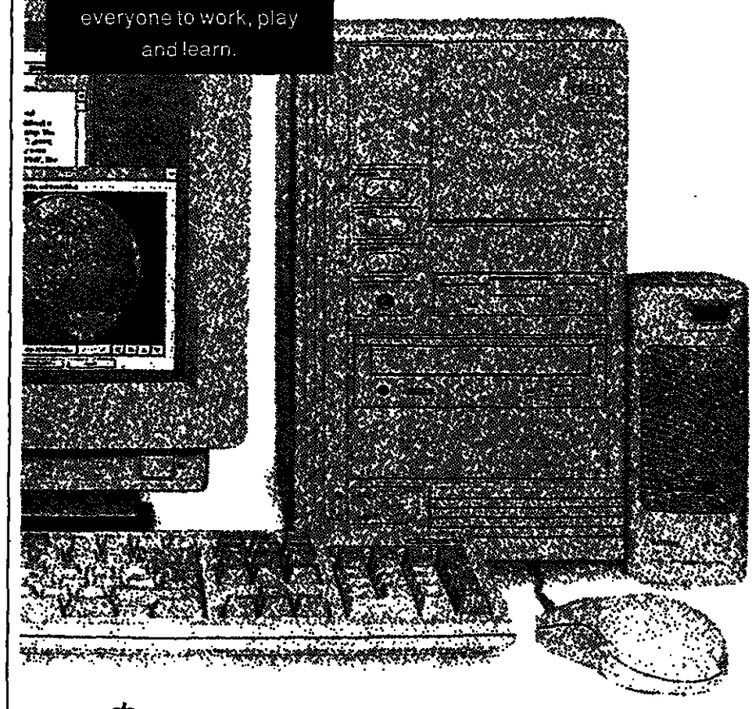
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Janet Daley



■ Labour knows its old education policy has failed, but its new one fails to go beyond pieties

A friend of mine was visiting a primary school in the north of England as a prospective parent. He asked the headmaster about his educational philosophy. "Well," replied the head confidentially, "we're under a lot of pressure now to emphasise *basic skills*." His voice took on a wry note as he pronounced the despised words. "But after the general election, we can relax." I am not making this up. Perhaps it was the cosmopolitan demeanour of my friend and his wife which evoked the head's indiscreet confession. He thought he was among friends.

The sort of people with whom Tony Blair and his wife are accustomed to dine are, after all, just the ones from whom he is trying to distance himself with his new educational policy. Demanding a return to traditional teaching methods and structured learning was the province of Thatcherite oiks in the 1980s. It was a reasonable assumption then, on the part of the provincial headmaster, that a pair of London sophisticates would be on his side. But is it still a fair assumption that Labour is? Or that it will be, if it returns to power?

Labour politicians have clearly realised that all those parents who were furious about what the schools were doing to their children actually have the vote. And those parents could see plainly that the teaching unions — which were supported by Labour — were in league with local education authorities (of which the most notorious were Labour-controlled), and that between them these forces were proving a match for any attempts by a Tory Government to restore standards of educational achievement.

How was new Labour to gain credibility? It was torn between the need to appeal to voters on what was becoming a crucial electoral issue, and political loyalty to teaching unions and Labour councils clamouring to regain control over education. Hence the early fumbles which brought such embarrassment to Tony Blair's front bench. National testing and league tables were not only a means of giving parents — especially poorer ones — real leverage within the state system, they also provided a way to monitor teaching effectiveness. By opposing these reforms, Labour put itself in the camp of the special-pleading, axe-grinding educational establishment. The contradiction in the party's stand on opting out was a fiasco. Could the party continue to reject a policy which the leader had chosen for his own son?

That impasse was dissolved by a characteristic semantic fudge: opted out schools would be abolished but immediately reincarnated as "foundation schools".

Avoiding this kind of incoherence became a priority. Clearly what was needed was a major policy revision which would serve notice to all of Labour's disparate factions that Things Had Changed. Now we have it. Labour no longer wishes to be seen as protecting bad teaching. Nor will it value equality over excellence. Nor will it tolerate the automatic promotion of inadequate senior teachers to headships. Much of this, of course, we have heard before. Rejecting progressive dogma has been part of the new Labour rhetoric for some time.

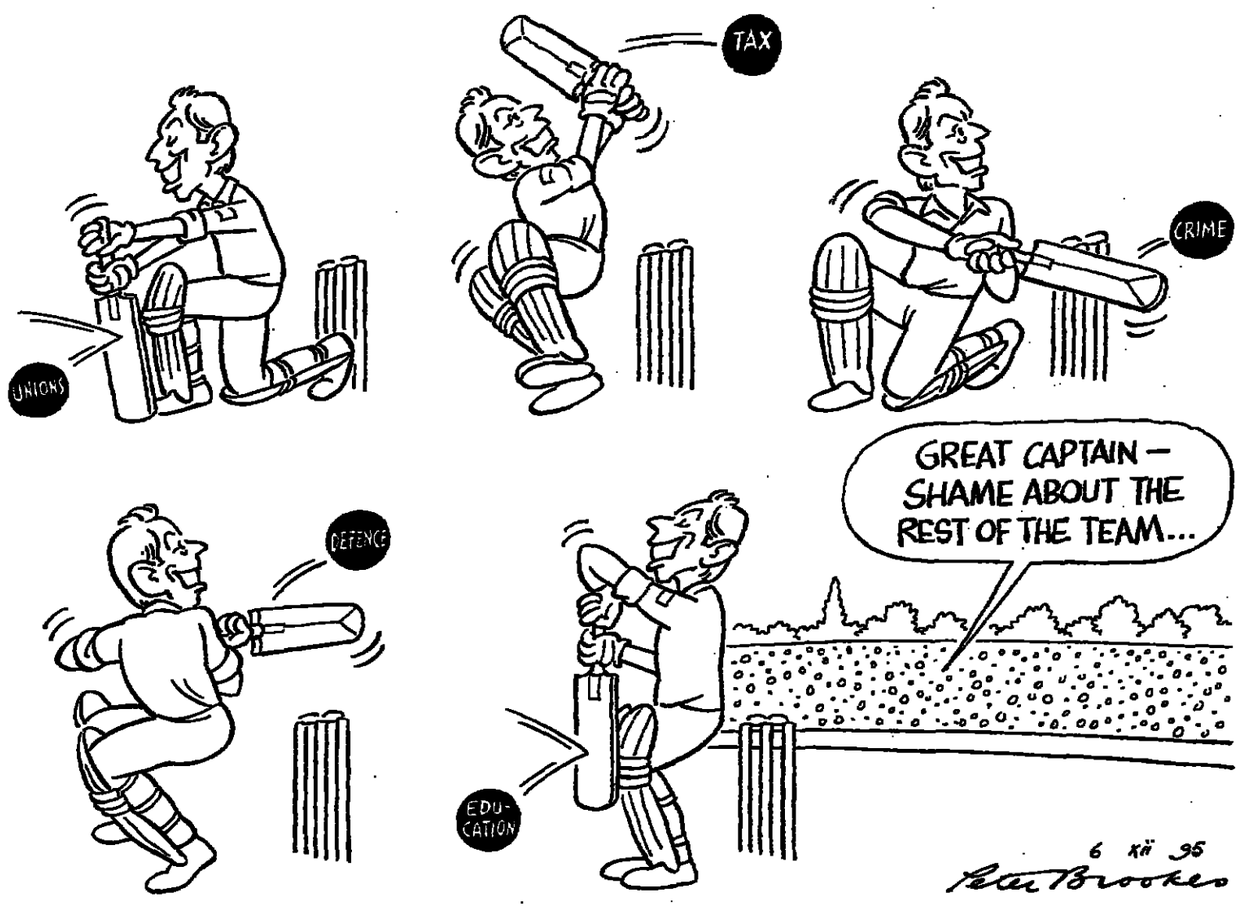
So, rather in the style of his oratory, Mr Blair has given us his formula for better schools. Strong heads. More traditional methods. Sacking of bad teachers. More homework. New Labour. New Britain. The trouble is that these supposedly detailed proposals have one yawning gap in their logic. They are all, so far as one can tell, at the mercy of local authorities who will have nothing but the force of Mr Blair's eloquence to fear if they do not comply.

> Who will oust the terminally wrong-headed?

Labour now proposes a new national register for prospective heads, for which it will be necessary to pass "rigorous competency tests". Who will set and mark the tests? And who will enforce the rule that no one may appoint a head who is not on the register? It will be "easier" to discipline or dismiss poor heads who do not meet performance targets. But local authorities will still employ most headteachers. What will happen if an authority disagrees with Ofsted and refuses to sack a "bad" head?

Much emphasis is given to speeding up the sacking of bad teachers. But much of the problem with state education lies with teachers whom the profession believes to be good: state-of-the-art experts in good primary practice who refuse to contemplate whole-class teaching. Never mind the incompetent, what will Labour do about the intransigently wrong-headed?

The new policy statement goes into a degree of pedagogic detail which even the Tory Government has eschewed. Minimum homework times are to be laid down. But laid down by whom? And enforced by whom? Will teachers who do not comply be among those sacked? If so, by whom? The crucial political question remains: will central government maintain power over education? If not, then all these proposals are nothing more than pious hopes intended to shame those Labour Party officials who will once again be in control of most education authorities.



Give me a diet of reason

The scaremongering over beef is unscientific and unjustified. So who benefits from our fears?

Simon Jenkins

A large fillet steak for me, waiter, and a beefburger for my son. I normally eat wimp. I prefer fish because I like its flavour and find it less fatty. But this week I shall eat beef. I shall do so not out of sympathy for beef farmers, whose whingeing and lust for subsidy leaves me cold, nor because the Meat and Livestock Commission assures me that cows are great. I will eat beef in contempt for scaremongers and in homage to the god of reason.

There are two groups who appear to have a vested interest in a link between a cattle disease called BSE and a rare human brain disorder called Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD). One group is the media. *The Sunday Times*, the tabloids, *World in Action*, *Watchdog* and the green lobby have all fastened on that fell phrase "we cannot know for sure" to build castles of alarm on sands of ignorance. Since we cannot know for sure, they conclude, we may as well panic. In the same spirit, we were expected to ban eggs because of salmonella, oysters because of marine pollution, strawberries because of irradiation and public swimming pools becaue of Aids. This is not watchdogging but witchdoctoring.

The pursuers of the BSE story secured a coup in 1990 when the then Agriculture Secretary, John Gummer, was induced to stuff a hamburger into the resistant mouth of his daughter Cordelia. As Lear said of his like-named offspring, "How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is / To have a thankless child". I hope the gesture won a huge donation from the beef lobby to Tory funds. Mr Gummer should know that any story that can embrace a politician, a child, a disease and a cow will induce an instant attack of Mad Newspaper Syndrome. It has lived with him ever since.

As a result of the current scare, schools in Manchester, Hull and West Glamorgan have banned beef altogether from their menus, because, according to an "exclusive" in the *Daily Express*, "parents fear there may be a direct link between contaminated beef and CJD". There is no basis for this fear. They are not packing evening classes in neurobiology down in Swansea. Aberdare's young farmers club has not scored a breakthrough in encephalopathic protein research. What happened was the media. *The Sunday Times* rang round some scientists eager for publicity or fearful for their grants and found that half of them were off hamburgers (for various reasons). *World in Action* induced a "we can't be sure" panic. A *Daily Express* Welsh correspondent cobbled together a beef hysteria story.

The facts of BSE are relatively simple. First identified in 1986 as a version of endemic scrapie in sheep, the outbreak reached epidemic level between 1988 and 1992. After some hesitation, the Government introduced drastic measures. These included the destruction of herds and the banning of recycled beef offal in cattle feed. Tough measures have also been taken in abattoirs to destroy any trace of brain or spinal tissue thought to harbour the disease. As was found with scrapie, the recycling of brain and spinal tissue appeared to lead to an accumulation of disease-carrying proteins.

Scientists think it possible, though not certain, that sheep offal produced the outbreak of BSE in cows. This suggests that this form of brain infection can be transferred in food from one species to another related species. Tests suggest it might also affect cats. Nobody has ever shown that it can reproduce in humans. The incidence of BSE in cattle is falling and is down to a third of its level two years ago. The controls seem to have worked. It is likely that some infected beef offal will have entered human food such as hamburgers and sausage-meat, at least before the controls came into force. But so?

There is not a shred of evidence to link BSE with human CJD. There is no evidence to suggest that eating cow meat, whether or not the cow was infected with BSE, puts the eater at risk. In the absence of a causal relationship, common sense asks whether there is any other relationship, such as one of statistical coincidence. We do not know of any chemical link between smoking and lung cancer, yet the high coincidence of smoking and lung cancer is enough for most people to assume some link as yet undemonstrated.

In the case of CJD and BSE there is no such coincidence. The latest BSE scare has been triggered by a farmer dying of CJD, after three farmers had previously died of it. Yet 46 non-farmers have died of the disease in the same year. Some were vegetarians. There are as many cases of CJD in Germany and other European countries which are completely free of BSE. Since infected beef offal must have been present in human food in the initial stages of the epidemic, there should by now be a surge in CJD. There is not. The rise over ten years from 28 to 50 cases annually is almost certainly the result of more careful diagnosis. Most experts accept that the incidence of CJD has been roughly constant over many years. BSE in cattle soared and is now plummeting.

True, we do not know what causes CJD. But then we do not know what causes Alzheimer's or leukaemia or lupus or even cancer. Since doctors regard the numbers dying of CJD as small, it is not high on the research priority list. The chief risk of a CJD epidemic would be from eating the brains of victims. New Guinea cannibals who ate the brains of their enemies did develop a CJD-type disease called kuru. However ingenious the creativity of London's culinary ratpack, it has not yet gone for cannibalism. Yet the *Daily Star* could use the headline "plague fear".

The other vested interest is scientists. The mission of science is the conquest of ignorance. BSE fascinates biochemists because it is neither a virus nor a bacteria but a non-DNA "prion". Its nature is unknown. If I were researching this topic, I too would want more money. If Whitehall had just cut £330,000 from my institute's grant — and Edinburgh is claiming this will somehow cost 70 BSE jobs — then I might respond by crying CJD. The hyperbolic Professor Richard Lacey of Leeds has declared that there could be as many as five million deaths from CJD in Britain within five years. The BSE research lobby is plainly determined to wave as many shrouds as the Aids lobby did when it hit the cash jackpot ten years ago. BSE has won a 20 per cent rise in government support next year.

The search for a cause for both BSE in cows and CJD in humans may merit this cash. But the Chief Medical Officer's assertion is surely plausible: that "there is currently no scientific evidence that BSE can be transmitted to humans or that eating beef causes CJD", and that therefore beef is safe to eat. If scientists want to try to prove otherwise at public expense, they are being allowed to do so. But I cannot see the point in the meantime in scaring parents and teachers and undermining a section of British industry, to the glee of German and French beef producers.

Risk management is an art at which the British are almost illiterate. Even if there were a proven link between BSE and CJD, the risk of my catching the disease from eating hamburgers appears to be infinitesimal. The same applies to the risk I run in eating eggs, chickens, shellfish and fruit and vegetables sprayed with pesticides. When the Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, also asserted "there is no conceivable risk" in eating beef, he was perhaps chancing his arm. But if the word conceivable is to have any meaning, he was surely right.

What I want to know from the experts is not whether there is risk in the world around me, but how much risk. I want information. In the hierarchy of dangers that I meet every day, I am content that the danger in eating beef is ludicrously small. I will not indulge the terrorism of scientists and journalists who claim that I "may" contract CJD. I shall cross the road, breathe the fumes, hazard the public highway, take a dozen nerve-tingling chances and order myself a steak. If I die of that steak, I shall certainly think myself most unlucky. What is this life if full of care, we dare not even climb the stair?

Alan Coren



■ What shall we do when the cat's eyes glaze over?

It is the week of the cat. It is the week of frantic 11th-hour nit-picking, nail-clipping, ear-scouring, tooth-pasting, shampooing, blow-drying, and all the rest of the honing, trimming, buffing and worming which is the unenviable lot of those who have dedicated their lives to bringing a ginger tom up to scratch. And, of course, bringing it up not to scratch, because what the dedicated are actually bringing it up to is this Saturday's National Cat Show, where any contestant, be its pedigree and lineaments never so flawless, is unlikely to get much change out of a judge whose clipboard is suddenly flecked with his own blood. Judges are only human, after all, and humans, even though they may have no plans to enter themselves for best of breed, still prefer to go home at night with both ears on.

Which brings me, regretfully, to today's nub. Regretfully, since this should be the year's top week for feline-human relations, not only because of the imminent Adoration of the Moggi at Olympia, but also because it is that jolly season when, all over the queendom, human beings are actually turning into cats. "Oh no they're not!" you cry, but I cry back "Oh yes they are!", for even as I write, countless clapped-out thespians are taking a much-needed break from 50 weeks of resting by climbing gratefully into a moth-eaten suit in order to rub up against a pair of strapping fishnets as they stride down the cardboard cobbles of umpteen Highgate Hills towards that wondrous medieval moment when cat-man symbiosis reached its civic apogee.

So, given all this celebration of our happy mutuality, you will understand why I truly hate to tell you that this week's third item of feline news is that there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a cat's paw. Indeed, astute forecasters among you may already have spotted it in those down-page classified ads headed "WHAT EVERY CAT'S BEEN HUNTING FOR" above a clumsy sketch of a rapt tabby. The tabby is rapt because it is gazing at a TV screen. What it is gazing at on the TV screen is *Kitty Safari*, and what *Kitty Safari* is "is a video cats really watch, full of busy birds, mice, squirrels and more. Cats love it — some touch the screen, some look behind it. Great fun for kittens and their humans! 25 mins, £9.95."

And is it come to this? How could it not? Television comes to everything. And will this little cloud stay as it is? Did it ever? Oh, it will start innocently enough, the way all television did, little harm done, a few couch cats preferring to stay in of an evening and watch the box, growing fat, a few dopey cats suffering slight brain damage from banging their faces on the screen after a lunge at a virtual mouse, curiosity killing a few cats that have gone round the back for a look and become fused to the National Grid, but nothing too serious.

Until, that is, television does what it always does: bores its audience and has to seek fresh fields for profit. It will not take a cat long to get cheesed off watching an inedible sparrow hop about. But it will not go back to nipping through its catflap into the real world, it is too late for that, this cat is hooked: it will caterwaul, it will strop its claws on the furniture, it will not rest until its human has gone down to the video shop to see if anything new has come in, and we know about market forces, you and I, so we know what new has come in, it will be *Feline Instinct* and *Reservoir Cats*, and pretty soon even this will have jaded the appetite, and the bloke in the video shop will tap the side of his nose, pop out back, and return with something in a paper bag cobbled together with surveillance videos, showing cats having sex in lifts and tearing human beings to shreds, and that will be more or less it, do not tell me television has no influence on behaviour, it is only a matter of time before our entire feline population returns to ferality, you can take the cat out of the jungle but you cannot take the jungle out of the cat.

Saturday is the 99th annual National Cat Show, and how nice it would be if its worthy organisers, the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy, could celebrate its centenary. But something tells me that, when next December comes around, even they won't fancy it.

Camera shy

THE MISSIONARY zeal with which Tony Benn records for posterity the day to day dramas of politics may yet bring down the portcullis on his head. In the course of making a documentary about the workings of Parliament he smuggled a camera into places never before seen on film, and has incurred the wrath of the authorities.

In *Westminster Behind Closed Doors*, to be shown on BBC2 next week, Benn uses a tiny hand-held video camera and has filmed for the first time the division lobbies when a vote was taking place.

He takes his camera to the Parliament's lavatories to show the steam-powered sewage ejectors, which date from 1887 — "they certainly dealt with Gladstone and Disraeli," he says.

Sir Cranley Onslow, the former chairman of the 1922 Committee, is unsettled: "This is something the House might be interested in taking a view on. It seems to be an undesirable precedent." Benn admits there could be difficulties. "I had general permission. But it was quite hairy, and I'm not quite through the woods yet," he says.

Benn, who for years has tape-recorded his meetings and public utterances, and who took a microphone into Harold Wilson's last Cabinet meeting, says the film took a year to make and is intended to be an affectionate portrait of the place to mark his 70th birthday and the 45th anniversary of his first entering the Commons.

● *Estelle Morris, Labour's spokesperson for schools' standards, should be given a hundred lines.*



"The real jewel they should have stolen is Diana"

Her press release launching an initiative called "Excellence for Everyone" contains a spelling mistake. "Children born today will still be at school in the second decade of the new millenium," it says. As any fule kno, it should read "millennium".

Waugh time

AT HIS 90th birthday lunch yesterday at his publishers' in London, Lord Longford pulled no punches when sharing with his guests his opinion of the Home Secretary, Michael Howard.

"The whole of my lifetime can be divided into two parts," he said. "Up until 1993, and after 1993, when Mr Howard became Home Secretary." The distinguished peer did admit, however, that Evelyn Waugh once prayed that Longford would never be responsible for the country's prisoners himself. "Otherwise we should all be murdered in our beds," Waugh wrote.

Track record

THERE is a military snap in the air in Atlanta, Georgia, where the Olympic Games will be held next year. Two of the top US Army officers who planned the American offensive in the Gulf War have been hired to make sure that the games run smoothly.

Major General Bill Ray, 61, and Colonel Bill Miller, 56, supervised the US Army's $200 million construction programme for Desert Storm, organising digs, rations and support for 500,000 troops. They are now working for Georgia Technical University, where the Olympic village will be based.

"Pretty much the same work," says Miller laconically. "Just this time no one's shootin' at us."

● *While strike-troubled Parisian commuters bite their berets in frustration, certain shopowners are rubbing their hands with glee. Sales of bicycle clips, mountain bikes and Rollerblades are soaring. "It's like Peking. We have sold more cycles in the past four days than we sold in a whole month last year," says one. "The Rollerbladers hang on to the back of* les mobilettes, *you understand."*

No ball

CELEBRATIONS were muted at Mike Atherton's family home after his mighty match-saving innings against South Africa. His mother Wendy, who makes a habit of video-taping all of the England cricket captain's important games, fell victim to technology failure.

"I couldn't tape it, because there's a problem with our video at the moment," she said yesterday from her home in Greater Manchester. "But luckily the broadcasters heard about it and offered us a copy."

Roaring Fortes

AS THE FORTE family digs in against Granada's hostile bid and offers to sell its stake in the Savoy Group, there is unsettling news from the Connaught hotel in London, one of the group's flagships. The kitchen has been told to cut down on its truffle bill, which reportedly runs to many thousands of pounds per month.

The head henchman at the hotel group, Ramon Pajares (known as Rayon Pajamas in catering circles), is said to have queried the cost of the round little fungi, to the disgruntlement of the Connaught's executive chef Michel Bourdin. Bourdin readily sniffs out a good truffle when he can, but he refused to comment on the matter yesterday. There are signs, however, that he is staging a fightback — the Connaught is staging a truffle-fest during Valentine's week next year.



Truffle-hunters start here

P·H·S

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'A' FOR EFFORT

Marks for Labour achievement will be less easily awarded

The most striking difference between David Blunkett, Shadow Education Secretary, and his predecessor, Ann Taylor, is that Mr Blunkett sounds like a parent while Ms Taylor spoke as a teacher. Nowhere in Labour policy has the shift been more apparent from supporting the interests of the producer to backing the consumer. Yesterday's policy paper on raising standards in schools may infuriate Labour's natural allies — teachers and local education authorities — but it ought to please the far greater number of voters who have children or grandchildren at school.

Labour has taken too long to recognise that at least three generations of schoolchildren have had their lives blighted by progressive teaching methods in state schools. Primary school children in particular need to be taught, not simply left to "discover". Mixed-ability teaching is a more radical idea than even the Communists dared to entertain. Not only does it fail to serve the most able children; it also leaves behind the least able, whom the Left pretend to care most about.

So Labour's backing for putting children into sets by ability is as welcome as it is overdue. So is Tony Blair's professed "zero tolerance" of failure in schools. The document is full of words such as "excellence" and "standards" which, ten years ago, would have been condemned as "elitist". In its determination to weed out bad teachers and bad heads, it outflanks even the Tories.

But commendable intentions, as any headteacher knows, are but a first step towards achieving good results. Mr Blunkett's sincerity may not be in doubt, but how does he intend to translate his aspirations into reality? Not even this centralising Government has attempted to enforce a rule that all children in key stage two of primary school should be given at least half an hour's homework a night. While many schools already have home-school contracts, government cannot ensure that parents keep their side of the bargain.

So the effectiveness of Labour's schools policy will be determined by the extent to which local authorities, headteachers, parents and classroom teachers are prepared to put it into effect. Some Labour local authorities, such as Birmingham, have already implemented much of what Mr Blunkett set out yesterday. To others, it is anathema. And while some headteachers have been putting together classes by ability for years, others will still object on ideological grounds. Will governors be expected to sack them?

In the end, central governments have frustratingly little power to raise standards in schools. They can recommend, cajole, publish guidelines and league tables, and tinker with curriculums. The Secretary of State for Education cannot personally ensure that more effective and traditional teaching methods are reintroduced to the nation's classrooms.

What is needed is a transformation in attitudes among educationists themselves. There are signs that such a change is occurring, particularly among some rank-and-file members of teaching unions and in some "new" Labour councils. It will have to accelerate if Labour's plans are to have any hope of success.

Messrs Blair and Blunkett are taking a bold gamble that, if they win the election, they will not lose the war between a Labour government and the education establishment. This is just one battleground on which Mr Blair's forces will have to fight the frustrated ambitions of public-sector trade unionists. For the past 16 years, the latter have harboured grievances against the Conservative administration which they have assumed will be met by an incoming Labour government. Their hopes are likely to be dashed; and there are no enemies so bitter as those who once thought they were friends.

All new Prime Ministers know that standing firm against an unpopular opponent increases their esteem in the eyes of voters. Nurses and ambulance workers can expect popular sympathy. But progressive teaching methods are supported only by a small, if vociferous, minority; most parents simply want their children better taught. Education may well be one of the first of the skirmishes that Mr Blair has to fight. He could not have chosen better ground.

PRINCESS AMBASSADOR

Ministers abroad need not fear a royal diplomat

When the Queen received the Prime Minister yesterday for their routine weekly meeting, there was one among the subjects they discussed that was not routine: a future role for the Princess of Wales that is commensurate with her status, her popular standing, her wishes and her abilities. As *The Times* has long stressed, it is of great importance for the monarchy and country as a whole that she find such a role.

In her television interview on the *Panorama* programme last month, the Princess declared that she would "like to be an ambassador for this country" and to "represent the good qualities" of this country abroad. With goodwill, self-discipline and flexibility on all sides, just such a position should be found.

In the wake of the Princess's *Panorama* appearance, the Palace authorities promised to "see how we can help her define her future role". Their apparent willingness to support her ambassadorial desires ought to provide proof of a promise kept. There are apparent signs of opposition, however, not so much from the Palace as from the Tory back benches. The senior MP, Bill Walker, said that "her first duty should be to her children". Ill-judged words were also spoken on Monday night by Dame Jill Knight, vice-chairman of the 1922 Committee. "It really is not enough just to smile at people and pat them on the head," she said.

Of course it is not enough to pat people on the head: but in suggesting that the Princess has done no more than that since she married the Prince of Wales, Dame Jill is guilty of grotesque incomprehension. The Princess has a sense of her public worth as well as her private self: she should have space in which to express her public ambitions.

The Princess is young, committed and charismatic: why should she not widen the range of her cultural and patriotic responsibilities? She has endured obstructive jealousy from within the royal circle: she does not deserve to receive more from ministers who fear to be upstaged.

As her recent visit to Argentina showed, the Princess is capable of performing duties in delicate, even potentially hostile, contexts. Well-briefed and well-intentioned, the Princess demonstrated why she is such a rich diplomatic resource. Britain had fought a war with Argentina only the year after she married the Prince of Wales: in travelling to Buenos Aires and beyond she repaired relations in a manner that no elected politician or professional diplomat could have matched. She is not a diplomat. She is a popular symbol, a force for recognition and understanding.

As an advocate for Britain's interests abroad — whether in trade with other countries, investment or humanitarian activities — the Princess would be an advocate at least as persuasive as other members of the Royal Family are, more so than many. She has not in these matters the sagacity of the Queen or the longer experience of the Prince of Wales, but the Foreign Office should be able to ensure that she is always sensibly briefed and guided. The Princess is an asset: she wishes to perform a "possibly unique role" as an ambassador for this country. She should be helped to do so.

LOVE'S LABOUR'S WON

A poetic revival in more ways than one

John Prescott is not everybody's object of romantic desire. Until Labour's deputy leader spruced up his image for new Labour, he had changed little in public perception from the days when he was a trade unionist steward on cruise liners. Worse still, he belonged to the bluff-and-chippy type of steward who failed to conceal a cupped hand hinting for his folded tip.

Even as one of Tony Blair's top men he was not first choice to woo the floating voters on TV. But now we have the New New John Prescott, as exclusively described by the distinguished poet Fleur Adcock in *A Political Kiss*, her fantasy love poem in the latest issue of *Poetry Review*. Whatever next?

This verse is hot stuff. "Lips out-thrust, certain protuberances/ under our clothing brushing each others fronts. . ." It confirms that there is no accounting for taste in such matters: a rugged bit of Prescott can be as attractive as Major grey, Ashdown khaki or Blair pale. We are reminded too by Wendy Cope's *Making Cocoa for Kingsley Amis*: women are now frequently more likely to shoot the versified arrows of desire rather than act as their targets. After centuries spent mostly at the receiving end of bad rhymes and verse innuendo, at last the poetesses are getting their own back.

But perhaps they are simply reviving the ancient genre of praise-song. Today in Africa, a praise-singer is still the tribal equivalent to David Frost or the Dimblebys, improvising such tough introductions as, "He is Shaka the unshakeable,/ Rock where elephants take shelter/ When the heavens frown." But in Europe too praise-singers were once as indispensable a part of high culture as court painters. The first poets earned their livings by eulogy of the tyrants and kings who were their patrons. Their formulaic and disciplined puffs of praise produced poetry no less grand than the revolutionary freedoms of their successors.

The danger to eulogy as a poetic activity comes with a change of regime, when past flattery may be taken as criticism of the present. Troubadours and Mastersingers lost their pensions, their jobs, and sometimes even their heads, at such times. Shakespeare and Marvell, for whom praise-singing was only an atavistic vestige of poetry, managed such transitions by a genius for self-preservation as well as words. Seneca was forced to commit suicide when Nero, the constant object of his praise, went off him. Ovid, it is said, was exiled to the Black Sea for turning his praise away from the Emperor to the next generation. Fleur Adcock may have to be careful if old Labour ever returns in its vengeful old glory.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Local services face budget cuts

From Councillor Harvey Cole

Sir, The Treasury Red Book meticulously sets out government spending plans for current and future years in real terms, taking account of inflation. But when it comes to the rate-support grant figures only the cash amounts for this year and next year are given.

Taking the notorious extra £774 million to be channelled into education through local authorities, for which Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State, battled so bravely in Cabinet, this has the following effects:

1. The increase, from £17.2 billion to almost £18 billion in the Government's standard spending figure becomes only £320 million after allowing for inflation.

2. Other unavoidable burdens, such as rising pupil numbers and the effect of additional regulations and controls, absorb all the rest.

3. Local education authorities (LEAs) are already spending £18.1 billion this year — so what are we to make of the Government's claim (report, December 1) that relaxed capping limits will allow LEAs to spend the extra funding earmarked for education?

Furthermore, within total budgets restrained within a cash rise of 3.3 per cent, additional spending of 4.5 per cent on education means a rise of little over 1.5 per cent on all other services — well below inflation and a cut in real terms of approaching £500 million.

Nevertheless, the Government has pencilled in an increase of £600 million in council tax as required to square the circle even on its terms and assumptions. The 1p off the standard rate of income tax (reports and leading article, November 29; letters, December 1, 4) could have been used to stabilise council tax and avoid any reduction in the standard of services.

Instead, the Government apparently plans to complain that wicked and inefficient local authorities are depriving the electorate of the benefit of richly deserved tax cuts. The question is, who is going to fall for that?

Yours &c,
HARVEY R. COLE
(Deputy Leader,
Liberal Democrat Group,
Hampshire County Council).
9 Clifton Road,
Winchester, Hampshire.
December 1.

Sounds of silence in the countryside

Sir, As the originator of the "tranquil area" maps published by the Council for the Protection of Rural England (report and leading article, "Silence of the lambs", December 1), I hope you will allow me to comment.

Yes, it is the urban perception which gives poignancy to the idea that the countryside is tranquil and it is true that the countryside "industry" is in danger of writing too many reports. Who can quarrel with your sublime conclusion that tranquillity resides only in the personal landscape between our ears?

So, I must apologise for hijacking the word for my maps. It was applied before CPRE became involved but numerous discussions and inquiries failed to produce an alternative.

CPRE required a popular word to appeal to the man in the street. That is the essence of these maps: they carry a simple message which everyone can understand even though it is hard to see what can be done about our predicament with the motor car.

No, there *is* no silence in the countryside: on the dial of the decibel meter birdsong will outstrip the drone of the motorway heard two or three miles away. Thirty years ago that drone was not there and we had a different perception of tranquillity in the countryside.

It is this that I wished to state so that as many as possible may ask themselves whether or not they are concerned. It is not true as you say that anyone will yearn for "cars and urban clatter" after spending a night by a farm.

Yours sincerely,
SIMON RENDEL,
Millbrook Cottage,
Blewbury, Didcot, Oxfordshire.
December 3.

From the President of the Council for the Protection of Rural England

Sir, It is unfortunate that, in your leading article today, you should cite Theocritus and Virgil in order to belittle the CPRE report on the alarming loss of tranquillity in the English countryside.

Theocritus's knowledge of rural life was not "pure invention": he saw it as a necessary escape for urban man, and (as the American scholar, Professor Moses Hadas, writes) "had clearly heard and smelled and felt the fields and animals and not been repelled".

As for Virgil, far from being "fanciful", he demonstrates within his poetry a deep knowledge of animal husbandry and country life, expressed most sublimely in the Georgics. What is more, his bitterness at the expropriation of land would be echoed today by those who see the fields eaten up by roads and out-of-town superstores.

Spenser and Tennyson . . . a touch of the bucolics, perhaps, but you insult Robert Frost! His work owes little to the pastoral and everything to a profound and realistic knowledge of the interdependency of people and the countryside — which, incidentally, underpins all the activities of the CPRE.

Wilfully, you confuse the pastoral and the rural, just as you equate tranquillity with absolute silence. Those millions of people who go to the countryside (even on day trips) to refresh themselves after the stress of urban life understand exactly what I was on about in my introductory remarks to the CPRE report.

The metropolitan flippancy of your editorial is in sharp contrast to the perception shown by writers as various as Hopkins, Wordsworth, Larkin, Betjeman and Heaney: that essential, inescapable moral imperatives reside within fields and hedges and hills which should not be divorced from the "personal landscape" of each one of us.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN DIMBLEBY,
President,
Council for the Protection
of Rural England,
Warwick House,
25 Buckingham Palace Road, SW1.
December 1.

From Mrs Sheila Vince

Sir, Your photograph on page eight (December 1) shows a lone rider enjoying the peace of the Shropshire Marches, "one of the few remaining tranquil areas" in England. The page nine advertisement shows a tranquil area overlooked by a Land Rover Discovery, the caption being: "Sunday, all this could be yours."

Shropshire Marches beware.

Yours faithfully,
SHEILA VINCE,
42 Kenilworth Road,
Coventry,
West Midlands.
December 1.

The giving and receiving of tips

From the Editors of Harden's London Restaurants

Sir, It is all very well for your leader today to exhort restaurant customers to assert themselves as a substitute for Lord Bradford's Bill to enforce "*service compris*" restaurant pricing. In real life the last thing most people want to *do* at the end of a pleasant dinner is to worry about whether they are being tricked or, if they find that they are, to confront the management.

In our recent survey of almost 800 regular diners-out in London we asked the question "What annoys you most about London restaurants?". The practice of leaving the credit card slip blank, even after service has been added, was cited by some 51 per cent of respondents — half as many again as complained about the next biggest complaint, the effects of cigarette smoke.

You suggest that "hardened consumers" should take matters into their own hands. These particular hardened consumers would respectfully suggest that the creation of a fair and level dining table is an entirely proper objective of public policy, and that the Bill deserves all-party support.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD HARDEN,
PETER HARDEN,
Editors,
Harden's London Restaurants,
PO Box 1500,
224 Old Brompton Road, SW5.
December 4.

From Mr Adam Fergusson

Sir, Your report and leading article on restaurant charges miss an important aggravation. If a customer elects to add a 10 per cent tip to an ordinary restaurant bill, he will also have added 10 per cent to the VAT which it includes. If he has the nerve, it is of course open to him to reduce the tip by roughly 1.5 per cent to ensure that it applies only to what he has consumed.

However, when an automatic service charge is signalled on a menu and added to the bill, the restaurateur is actually obliged to charge VAT on the service. Thus a meal for four costing £100 is swollen to £112 by a (quite usual) 12 per cent mandatory service charge and then to £131.60 by VAT at 17.5 per cent — £2.10 more than if the tip were voluntary. The 12 per cent becomes more than 14 per cent.

That is one reason why Lord Bradford's Private Member's Bill for an obligatory service charge sounds a bad idea.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
ADAM FERGUSSON,
15 Warwick Gardens, W14.

From Mr Rupert Carter

Sir, Arguments against restaurant service charges should not ignore the fact that restaurant service is generally at its best in America and notoriously at its worst in France.

In America all waiters understand they will earn nothing if they are not helpful and friendly. In Paris they know their salary is only subject to the owner's approval and so are frequently snooty and indifferent.

For the American system to work well the staff must be on low salaries but allowed to keep all their tips and "service". This is to the advantage of diners because they know their waiters will do everything they can to ensure a pleasant meal. It helps restaurant management by minimising fixed costs in the form of staff wages and encouraging waiters not only to serve but to sell as well.

As for the cover charge, it does have a special role, different from the one intended. In restaurants where tables are at a premium it allows clientele to sit down just for coffee without leaving the restaurant grumpily out of pocket and themselves with a conscience. The cover charge can be deducted from the price of entrées so as not to penalise those eating full meals.

Yours faithfully,
RUPERT CARTER,
Maplewood,
54 Burdon Lane, Cheam, Surrey.
December 4.

Overseas aid cut

From Mr John Twells

Sir, Having quite recently seen some of the enormous progress being made in at least one area of the developing world, I disagree with the predictable special pleading letter today from officers of aid pressure groups. The cut in overseas aid is insufficient. Such aid, like the EU subventions, should be reduced.

Both outgoings exceed what is necessary, desirable, justifiable or, in the widest meaning of the word, profitable; except of course to those who administer such expenditure.

Moreover, in the light of greater Third World prosperity and the galloping advance of Asian economies, is there not a good case for abolishing the ministerial post and that section of government devoted to overseas aid?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN TWELLS,
15 Church Lane,
Darley Abbey, Derby.
December 4.

Vintage car tax

From Mr Frank Gilbert

Sir, You state today that, as a result of the Budget, Lord Montagu will personally save £42,000 in road tax on his 300 historic cars.

Since most of the cars at Beaulieu belong to the National Motor Museum, very few are licenced for road use, the majority are pre-war, and therefore have only been liable to licencing at the rate of £70 a year, this seems rather an exaggerated windfall.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK GILBERT,
50 Ashbourne Road, Derby.
November 29.

Presidential ratings

From Mr Brian Crozier

Sir, William Rees-Mogg ("The best and brightest", November 30) could have improved his examples of presidential intellect by including Richard Nixon.

Ronald Reagan was high on wisdom (rather than intuition) and less so on intellect.

Nixon was high on intellect and low on wisdom (as witness the Watergate affair). The last time I saw him, at a one-day conference in Washington to launch his splendid last book, *Seize the Moment*, he delivered an outstanding speech, lasting about 40 minutes, without notes or prompting equipment, without hesitation and in carefully constructed sentences.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN CROZIER,
Flat AA, 1 Carlisle Place,
Westminster, SW1.
November 30.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Copyright law

From the Head of the Public Information Office

Sir, Mr Justice Laddie is reported in your columns (Law, December 5) as suggesting that the legislature seeks through copyright administration to "make money out of the exploitation of the legislation which it passes".

This is not so. By virtue of section 164 of the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988, copyright in statutes and statutory instruments belongs to the Crown, and is overseen by HMSO, a government agency. As the law stands, the legislature — that is, Parliament — as contrasted with government, has no locus at all in the administration of Crown copyright.

Yours faithfully,
C. C. POND,
Public Information Office,
1 Derby Gate,
Westminster, SW1.
December 5.

Costs against JPs

From Mr Michael Stephen, MP for Shoreham (Conservative)

Sir, Magistrates and their clerks should not be personally liable for damages or costs (Law, November 28; letters December 4) whilst acting *bona fide* in their judicial capacity.

Human beings are bound to make mistakes from time to time. Lay magistrates perform a vital public service without pay, and it is quite wrong that their income and savings should be at risk.

As for stipendiary magistrates and justices' clerks, who else would work for an employer who leaves them exposed to personal risk whilst doing their job?

Magistrates and their clerks should be given the same immunity as judges without further delay.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL STEPHEN,
House of Commons.
December 4.

Popski in Venice

From Mr Ronald H. L. Hatch

Sir, Your report of November 24 on the recent reunion of members of Popski's Private Army reminds me of an incident in 1945 when I was a member of "B" Squadron, 48th Battalion, Royal Tank Regiment. We were the first British army unit to enter Venice, several days before VE-Day — unopposed, I might add — and we virtually had the freedom of the city.

While sightseeing from the top of the clocktower in the piazza I heard a commotion below. I looked down to see several Jeeps emerge from a landing craft at one of the St Mark's jetties and come to a halt in the square. Popski and his heavily armed men had made a spectacular entrance into an area where wheeled vehicles were rare, and they received an ecstatic welcome from the Venetians.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD HATCH,
Aghavannagh,
Manchester Road, Ninfield,
Nr Battle, East Sussex.

Vassal sketch

From Mr Ned Sherrin

Sir, I am sorry to have, reluctantly, to correct your columnist, Nigella Lawson (article, December 5), about the John Vassal sketch on *That Was The Week That Was*. Both Johns (Bird and Fortune) were in America during the 39 editions of the programme.

The excellent sketch, written by Peter Shaffer, was brilliantly performed by Lance Percival and David Kernan. Ms Lawson will have been too young (if born) to see it; but, of course, her point about comedy nowadays concentrating on showbiz and soundbites, is well made.

Yours faithfully,
NED SHERRIN,
4 Cornwall Mansions,
Ashburnham Road, SW10.
December 5.

Children at risk

From Mrs Diana Lamplugh

Sir, The Suzy Lamplugh Trust welcomes and endorses the call by Tom White of NCH Action for Children (letter, November 28) that it is now time for "the political will and government resources" to put measures into practice which will help protect young children at risk.

At our conference, "Missing Persons — Whose Responsibility?" in April 1992, delegates (police, social workers, probation officers, voluntary and statutory agencies) all called for an inquiry aimed at the creation of a national advisory body on missing persons. This request was refused by the Home Office as unnecessary and expensive. Instead the National Missing Persons Bureau was set up within Scotland Yard.

However, the recent report written by Centrepoint on missing and vulnerable young people, once again calls for the Home Office and the Department of Health to set up a co-ordinating group of local authority bodies and voluntary agencies who assist missing persons and other "lost" young people.

A homeless young person without any network of friends, family or contacts is always vulnerable to those perverted enough to prey on their bewilderment and need for a friendly face.

Many of these youngsters are not missed by anyone. They are however part of the future of our society: we cannot afford not to act in their defence. The Government must take a lead.

Yours faithfully,
DIANA LAMPLUGH,
The Suzy Lamplugh Trust,
14 East Sheen Avenue, SW14.
November 28.

A grubby post

From Mr H. A. C. Bruce-Gardyne

Sir, I applaud the suggestion in today's Diary to install Judge Tumim as Principal of St Edmund Hall, Oxford. He will be most at home, fielding complaints from the inmates about the food.

Yours faithfully,
H. A. C. BRUCE-GARDYNE
(St Edmund Hall, 1990-94),
9 Stanbridge Road, SW15.
November 27.

Oh dear

From Mrs Iona Meek

Sir, Sara Mason speculates (letter, December 1) as to the appearance of those infants whose birth announcements in your columns are not qualified by such descriptions as "beautiful" or "lovely".

I, in turn, am frequently intrigued by announcements heralding the arrival of a "baby boy" or "baby girl". My recollection is that all my children, boys or girls, were babies at birth.

Yours faithfully,
IONA MEEK,
64 Roseneath Road, SW11.
December 1.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

December 5: The Queen held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

His All Holiness Bartholomew, Ecumenical Patriarch and Archbishop of Constantinople Nea Roma was received by Her Majesty.

The Archbishop of Canterbury was present.

The Lord Younger of Prestwick was received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Knight of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle.

Lieutenant Colonel Peter Gibbs was received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

The Rt Hon John Major MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of The Queen this evening.

The Duke of Edinburgh this evening attended an "Arts for Nature" Gala Evening at the David Messum Gallery, Cork Street, London WI.

His Royal Highness was represented by Lieutenant Colonel Sir John Johnston at the Memorial Service for Mr Carl Giles which was held in St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, London EC4, this morning.

The Lady Susan Hussey has succeeded Lady Dugdale as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

CLARENCE HOUSE

December 5: The Hon Mrs Rhodes has succeeded the Lady Margaret Colville as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

December 5: The Prince of Wales this evening gave a Reception at St James's Palace for members of the three Services who have recently served operationally overseas.

KENSINGTON PALACE

December 5: The Princess of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, The Light Dragoons, received Lieutenant Colonel Robert Webb-Bowen upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer and Lieutenant Colonel Timothy Checketts upon assuming the appointment.

Brigadier Anthony Wells (Colonel) was present.

KENSINGTON PALACE

December 5: The Duke of Gloucester this evening attended a Concert in aid of the Council for Music in Hospitals at St John's Smith Square, London.

The Duchess of Gloucester today visited Edinburgh and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh (Mr Norman Irons, the Right Hon the Lord Provost).

Her Royal Highness opened an exhibition of work by Jette Frolich and subsequently met members of the Edinburgh Youth Orchestra at the Royal Danish Consulate, 4 Royal Terrace. Afterwards The Duchess of Gloucester visited the Thistle Foundation, Niddrie Mains Road.

Later Her Royal Highness, Patron, visited the offices of Scottish Opera at Elmbank Crescent, Glasgow and subsequently attended a Concert to celebrate the Life of Sir Alexander Gibson (Founder of Scottish Opera), in aid of the Scottish Musicians' Benevolent Fund at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Glasgow (Mr Thomas Dingwall, the Right Hon the Lord Provost).

Mrs Michael Wigley was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE

December 5: The Duke of Kent this morning visited "The Garths" Home Housing Project, Cork Street, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear (Colonel Sir Ralph Carr-Ellison).

His Royal Highness this afternoon opened Edwin Trisk Systems Limited, Pallion Industrial Estate, Sunderland; the Dunnick Hunter Group, Team Valley Trading Estate, Newcastle and the new premises of the National Rivers Authority, Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle.

The Duke of Kent later visited the "Soldier's Life" Exhibition, Discovery Museum, Newcastle, Tyne and Wear. Captain Marcus Barnett was in attendance.

The Duke of Kent, Patron, the Institute of Export, this evening attended the Diamond Jubilee Dinner, Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London, WI.

Service dinner

The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards

King Constantine of The Hellenes was present at the annual dinner of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers and Greys) at the Cavalry and Guards Club last night. Major-General Charles Ramsay, Colonel of the Regiment, presided. Mr Tam Dalyell, MP, and Captain Calum Gray were among the guests.

Reception

Gyosei International College

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, received the guests at a reception held last night at the Mansion House for the Gyosei International College. Mr Takashi Nozu, chairman of the board of trustees of the college, and Professor Raoul Franklin, Vice-Chancellor of the City University, welcomed the guests. Mr Winston S. Churchill, MP, also spoke.

Life baron

Sir Robin Cooke, KBE, President of the New Zealand Court of Appeal, has been made a life baron.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen, as Colonel-in-Chief, will have luncheon with the Officers of The Queen's Lancashire Regiment at St James's Palace at 1; and, as patron, will open the new campus of the University of Westminster, Northwick Park, Harrow, at 3.15.

The Prince of Wales will visit Cheshire for various functions and meetings as President of Business in the Community, President of The Prince's Trust, and President of the Prince's Youth Business Trust.

The Princess of Wales, as Patron of the English National Ballet, will open the English National Ballet's School at Carlyle Building, SW10, at 11.30.

The Princess Royal, as Patron of the National Autistic Society, will attend the Take A Seat event at the MGM Cinema, Gloucester, at noon; as Patron of the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, will visit the Stroud bureau at 1.20; and will open a new Department of Social Security office in Stroud at 2.05.

The Duke of Gloucester will attend a reception at Goldsmiths' Hall at 6.30 to mark the fiftieth anniversary of BJS Company.

The Duchess of Kent will attend the British-American-Canadian Ball at Grosvenor House at 7.55.

Princess Alexandra will visit St Catherine's Hospice, Preston, Lancashire, at 11.15; and, as Chancellor, will preside at ceremonies for the conferment of higher and honorary degrees and postgraduate diplomas at Lancaster University at 12.30.

The King's School, Canterbury

The seventh Calvin and Rose G. Hoffman Prize for Distinguished Publication on Christopher Marlowe has been awarded to Professor Jonathan Bate of the University of Liverpool. Entries for the eighth prize should be submitted to the Headmaster by September 1, 1996. Further details may be obtained from the Headmaster's Secretary, The King's School, Canterbury, CT1 2ES.

The Read School, Drax

The Governors of the Read School, Drax, near Selby, North Yorkshire are pleased to announce that they have appointed Mr Richard Hadfield to succeed Mr Anthony Saddler as Headmaster on his retirement on August 31, 1996. Mr Hadfield is currently Head of Sixth Form at Gordonstoun School.

Wycombe Abbey School

Sixth Form Scholarships (tenable from September 1996):
Major Scholarships: Sarah Mortimer, Wycombe Abbey School, Anna Pozo, Bath High School, Joanna Simpson, Wycombe Abbey School.
Minor Scholarships: Camilla Benfield, Wycombe Abbey School, Nicola Randall, Haberdashers' Aske's School for Girls, Frederica West, Wycombe Abbey School.
Minor Scholarship for Music: Caroline Scott, Burgess Hill School.
Exhibitions: Rowena Brown, Wycombe Abbey School, Coco Ferguson, Wycombe Abbey School, Denise Mak, Wycombe Abbey School.
Internal Sixth Form Scholarships (tenable from September 1995) have been awarded to: Jane Liu (Fisher Scholarship) and Victoria Steward (Flux Dundas Scholarship).

Birthdays today

Mrs Janet Anderson, MP, 46; Lord Ashley of Stoke, CH, 73; Mr David Barons, racehorse trainer, 59; the Right Rev Patrick Barry, Abbot of Ampleforth, 78; Mr Dave Brubeck, musician, 75; Vice-Admiral Sir John Cadell, 66; Lord Clinton-Davis, 67; Air Marshal Sir John Curtiss, 71; Lord Emslie, 76; Mr Gerry Francis, football manager, 44; Earl Granville, 77; Mr Derek Hill, artist, 79; Mr Geoff Hoon, MP, 42; Mr Jonathan King, broadcaster, 51; Mrs Helen Liddell, MP, 45; Sir Richard Lloyd, chairman, Vickers, 67; Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, Attorney-General, 57; the Right Rev Eric Mercer, former Bishop of Exeter, 78; Sir George Pinker, former Surgeon-Gynaecologist to The Queen, 71; Lord Porter of Luddenham, OM, 75; Mr Alastair Ross Goobey, chief executive, Hermes Pensions Management, 50; Mr Richard Shepherd, MP, 53; Sir Bryan Thwaites, former chairman, Wessex Regional Health Authority, 72; Mr Charles Vance, director and theatrical producer, 66; the Right Rev Peter Walker, former Bishop of Ely, 76; Mr Peter Willey, cricketer, 46.



Helen Liddell, MP, who is 45 today

Memorial service

Mr Carl Giles

The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John Johnston at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Carl Giles, the cartoonist, held yesterday at St Bride's, Fleet Street. Canon John Oates officiated.

Mr Anthony Clarke, nephew, read the lesson. Mr Brian Nicholson, also representing the "Saints and Sinners" Club, read John Donne's *Holy Sonnet X* and Mr Brian Hitchen, Editor of the *Sunday Express*, read from Joyce Grenfell's *Joyce: by Herself and Her Friends*. Lord Beaverbrook read John Masefield's *Sea Fever*. Sir Edward Pickering and Mr Peter Tory gave addresses. Canon Henry Lunney, Rector of Tuddenham, was robed and in the sanctuary. Among others present were:

Mr and Mrs Basil Wilson (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Mr Maurice Clarke, brother-in-law), Mr and Mrs John Goodchild, Mr and Mrs Simon Goodchild, Mr Timothy Goodchild, Mr and Mrs Christopher Wilson, Mr Daniel Wilson, Miss Hannah Wilson, Mrs Anthony Clarke, Mr and Mrs Graham Clarke, Mrs Jennifer Needs, Mr D Rushmere, Mrs Olive England.

Lady Beaverbrook, Lord Burnham, Lady Freyberg, the Hon Sir Clive Bossom (Cartoon Arts Trust), the Hon Peter Strutt (Suffolk Coldstream Guards Association), the Hon Mrs Laura Levy, Lady Aitken, Lady Pickering, Sir John Junor, Sir Peter J Matthews, Mr John Pay (enterprise controller, Express Newspapers) with Mr Henry Macrory (Deputy Editor, *Sunday Express*), Mr Graham Jones (Assistant Editor, News) and many other past and present members of staff.

Mr Richard Burrows, Mr Arthur Brittenden, Mr Robin Esser, Mr Robin Ward, Mr Graham Lord, Mr Frank Robson, Miss Posy Simmonds, Miss Penny Junor, Mr Ben Perrick, Mr Peter O'Sullevan, Mr Tommy Sopwith, Mr William Feaver, Mr Mike Murphy, Mr Peter Maddocks, Mr Simon Parker Bowles, Mr James Mossop, Mr Peter Hogan, Mr Wally Fawkes, Mr Peter Dacre, Mr Peter Grosvenor, Mr Clive Collins, Ms Amanda Jane Doran, Mr Lionel Lambourne, Mr R Ullyett.

Mr Frank Dickens, Mr Paul Callan, Mr Peter Hitchens, Mr Louis Southgate, Mr Eric Offord, Mr Raff Zeza, Mr Percival G Sutton, Mr and Mrs M Stevens, Mr and Mrs Michael Gotelee, Mr and Mrs Peter Hetherington, Mr Frank Goldsworthy, Miss Pat Stevenson, Mr David Billington, Mrs Sandy Fawkes, Mr Philip Durrant, Mr Enzo Apicella, Mr Tim Olsen, Mr John Ellison, Mr George Ford, Mr Percival G Sutton, Miss Ruth Cordle, Mrs Lucy Darwall-Smith, Ms Emma Dickens.

Mr James Nicoll, Mr Wat Tyler, Mr Mark Bryant, Mr Peter Newport, Mr and Mrs Bill Leverseed, Mr Michael West, Mr and Mrs Ian Benfield, Mr James Empson, Mr Dennis Main-Wilson, Mr and Mrs G A Clancy, Mrs Ann McMullan, Mrs Freda Smith, Mrs Valerie Smith, Ms Ros Asquith, Mr G T W Wilson, Mr Chris Beatles, Mr and Mrs John Keble, Ms Pat Hunt ley, Mr Keith Renshaw.

Mr Peter Hetherington (British Racing Drivers' Club and trustee, Giles Cartoon Trust), Mr John Jensen (chairman, British Cartoonists' Association), with Mr Mark Bryant and other members of the association; Mr David Henshall (*East Anglian Daily Times*), Mr Peter Denton (Zoological Society of London), Mr Edward Wake-Walker (RNLI), and Mr R Whymark and Mrs Whymark (East Suffolk Nurses' League).

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: King Henry VI, Windsor, 1421; Richard H. Barham, author of *The Ingoldsby Legends*, Canterbury, 1788; Sir Osbert Sitwell, writer, London, 1892; Ira Gershwin, composer, New York, 1896.

DEATHS: Jean Baptiste Chardin, painter, Paris, 1779; Anthony Trollope, novelist, London, 1882; Jean Blanc, socialist and historian, Cannes, 1882; Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States in the American Civil War 1861-65, New Orleans, 1889; Ernst Werner von Siemens, engineer, Berlin, 1892.

Today is the feast day of St Nicholas, patron saint of youth, popularly known as Santa Claus.

Christopher Columbus discovered Hispaniola, now Haiti and the Dominican Republic, 1492.

The Irish Free State was proclaimed, 1921.

Luncheons

HM Government

Mr Michael Forsyth, Secretary of State for Scotland, and Mrs Forsyth were the hosts at a buffet luncheon held yesterday at Dover House, Whitehall, to mark the visit to London of the Right Rev James Harkness, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Royal College of Radiologists Research Appeal

The Right Hon Sir Edward Heath, KG, MBE, MP, a Patron of the Royal College of Radiologists Research Appeal, yesterday attended an appeal luncheon at the college. The President, Dr Michael Brindle, and the chairman of the appeal, Dr Norman Howard, were the hosts. Professor Judith Adams and Sir Christopher Paine were among those present.

Carpenters' Company

Mr M.R. Francis, Master of the Carpenters' Company, presided at a Christmas luncheon held yesterday at Carpenters' Hall. The Master of the Glaziers' Company was among those present.

City and Guilds

Mr Paul Wates, Hon FCGI, Chairman of the Council of the City and Guilds of London Institute, hosted a luncheon yesterday at 1 Gilspur Street, to mark the presentation of awards of Fellowship (FCGI) to Professor Sir Alan Harris, CBE, Eur Ing David Laxenby, Professor Kendrick Mortimer, Professor William O'Riordan, Professor Barry Richards, and Mr Edwin Holdup (in absentia).

Dinners

Warwickshire Lieutenancy

Viscount Daventry, Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire, presided at the annual dinner of the the Warwickshire Lieutenancy held last night at the Judges' House, Warwick.

Weavers' Company

The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs, was a speaker at a dinner of the Weavers' Company held last night at Vintners' Hall. Mr J.G.Y. Radcliffe, Upper Bailiff, received the guests. The Rev H.V. Edwards, Upper Warden, and Lord Kingsdown, KG, also spoke. Among others present were:

The Recorder of London, the Dean of St Paul's, the Prime Warden, Masters and Clerks of other City companies, the Deacon of the Incorporation of Weavers of Glasgow, Masters of the Incorporation of Weavers, Fullers and Shearmen of Exeter and the Society of Merchant Venturers of Bristol and the Highmaster of the Clothiers' Company, Worcester.

Coningsby Club

The Hon Peter Brooke, CH, MP, President of the Coningsby Club, presided at a Christmas dinner given by the chairman and officers of the committee last night at the Carlton Club. The Hon Alan Clark was the guest of honour and speaker.

Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain

Miss Ann Lewis, President of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, presided at a dinner held last night at 1 Lambeth High Street. Mr John Thompson, Head of Primary Care 2 Division, NHS Executive (Pharmacy, Optical and Dental), also spoke.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.A. Ashdown and Miss S.A. Harvie

The engagement is announced between Mark, eldest son of Mr Michael and Mrs Muriel Ashdown, of Stonesfield, Oxfordshire, and Shona Ann, youngest daughter of Mr Nasmith and Mrs Elspeth Harvie, of Tiverton, Devon.

Mr D.J. Cronin and Miss E.L. Cramp

The engagement is announced between Daniel, son of the late Mr and Mrs J.F. Cronin, of Co Cork, Eire, and Louise, daughter of Mrs J.S. Cramp and the late Mr H.N.C.B. Cramp, of Cropston, Leicestershire.

Mr A.J.S. Kennedy and Miss R.G. Caroe

The engagement is announced between Alasdair John Samuel, eldest son of Mr and Mrs David Kennedy, of Fettes, Edinburgh, and Ruth Gwendolen, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Martin Caroe, of Vann, Hambledon, Surrey.

Mr S.J. Pritchett and Miss C. Elias

The engagement is announced between Stephen John, son of Mr and Mrs Clifford John Pritchett, of Ilkeston, Derbyshire, and Catrin, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Dyfed Elias, of Deganwy, Gwynedd.

Mr S.D. Ritchie and Miss C.M. Phillips

The engagement is announced between Stuart David, elder son of Mr and Mrs David Ritchie, of West Chiltington, West Sussex, and Caroline Mary, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Phillips, of Teddington, Middlesex.

Mr P.K. Tahany and Miss J.A. Booth

The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr M.P. Tahany, of Leicester, and of Mrs M.J.A. Tahany, of Burford, and Jennifer, daughter of Mr and Mrs K.E. Booth, of Auckland, New Zealand.

Mr D.K. Cargill and Miss K.E.A. Hammick

The engagement is announced between Duncan, son of Mr Alan Cargill, of The Old Hall, Knapton, Norfolk, and of Mrs James McBurney, of Cranleigh House, Thorpeness, Suffolk, and Kate, daughter of the late Mr Charles Hammick, and of Mrs Georgina Hamnick, of Bridgewalk House, Britton Deverill, Wiltshire.

Mr C.W. Orange and Mrs R.J. Allen

The engagement is announced between Charles, son of the late Mr and Mrs Richard Orange, of Hascombe, Surrey, and Rosemary, daughter of Mr Raymond Cory and the late Mrs Vivienne Cory and step-daughter of Mrs Betty Cory, of Llanblethian, South Glamorgan.

Mr S.H. Slater and Miss K.P. Menzies

The engagement is announced between Simon Hugh, son of the late Commander Hugh Slater, and of Mrs Jane Slater, of London SW10, and Katherine Patricia, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Menzies, of Karnes, Berwickshire.

His Honour Sir Sanderson Temple, MBE, QC, and Mrs P.M. Shrubsole

His Honour Sir Sanderson Temple and Mrs Patricia Margaret Shrubsole, relict of Paul Patrick Shrubsole and daughter of the late Mr and Mrs J.B. Smalley, of Birkby Hall, Cark in Cartmel, intend to marry in January, 1996.

Marriage

Mr R.L. Measelle and Miss A.L. Price

The marriage took place in London, on December 2, 1995, between Mr Richard Leland Measelle, of Chicago, Illionis, and Miss Alison Louise Price, daughter of Mr Michael Price, CBE, and Mrs Price, of The Hill Farm, Edglock, Worcestershire.

Lecture

The Bristol Society

The Lord-Lieutenant of Avon and Somerset, Sir John Wills Bt, the Dean of Bristol and the Chairman of the University of the West of England were present at a lecture given for the Bristol Society by Lord Palumbo at the Council House last night. Mr St John Hartnell, chairman, presided and Mr Ian Robinson of KPMG gave the vote of thanks. KPMG hosted a supper held afterwards.

Professor T. Brooke Benjamin

A memorial service for Professor T. Brooke Benjamin will be held on Saturday, January 27, 1996, at 3pm in the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford.

Appointments

Latest appointments include:

Michael Llewellyn Smith, 56, Ambassador to Warsaw, to be Ambassador to Athens from April 1996 in succession to Oliver Miles, who will be retiring from the Diplomatic Service.

Legal appointments

John Edward O'Hare, a deputy Taxing Master, to be a full-time Taxing Master from December 11.

Inner Temple

Anthony Glass, QC, and John Shorrock, QC, have been elected Masters of the Bench of the Inner Temple.

BMD'S: 0171 782 7272
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Think from what a height you have fallen: repent, and do as once you did. If you do not, I will come to you and remove your lamp from its place. Revelation 2 : 5 (REB)

BIRTHS

ANGELINI - On December 2nd at The Portland Hospital, to Elena (née Arduino) and Nazzaro, a beautiful boy, Tommaso Davide.

BEECH - On December 2nd at The Portland Hospital, to Lady Samantha (née Feilding) and Guy, a daughter, Cora Lucy Vivienne.

MALTON - On December 3rd 1995, to Suzanne (née Frame) and Timothy, a daughter, Lucy Emma, a sister for Charles.

McVEY - Vivienne (née Jinks) and John are proud to announce the safe arrival of Isobel Grace on 1st December 1995.

MILLER - On December 2nd, at The Portland Hospital, to Laura and Michael, a beautiful daughter, Alexandra Paige, a sister for Emma.

MONMONT - On November 30th in Paris, to Charlotte (née van der Horst) and Franck, a son, Maxim Jean.

VAN EDEN - On December 1st at The Portland Hospital, to Margot (Schellema) and Maarten, a son, Christiaan Gabe, a brother for Arthur.

WEBB - On 1st December, to Andrina (née Baldwin) and Rudi, a son, Louis James Wickham, a brother for Amelia.

DEATHS

ADDISON - On December 4th 1995, Peacefully at home after a short illness, Joan Mary. Very beloved wife of Alan and sister of Barbara. Much loved mother of Jill and Graham, loved mother-in-law and sadly missed granny. Funeral Service at St Margaret's Church, Angmering, on Tuesday December 12th at 12 noon. Family flowers only please, donations to Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o H.D. Tribe Ltd., 63 Sea Lane, Rustington, West Sussex BN16 2RQ.

ATKINSON - Robert Le Lacheur, author and naturalist. Died quietly at home 3rd December. Enquiries to Toxalin & Son, tel: (01491) 573570.

BLYTHE - On December 2nd 1995, Brenda Lycett Gault, peacefully at Frimley Park Hospital, Camberley, Surrey. Beloved mother of Nicholas and Claire, grandmother of Ellen, daughter of Daisy Lycett, sister of John Lycett. Service at The Park Crematorium, Aldershot on December 11th at 3 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Critical Care Appeal, Frimley Park Hospital. Enquiries to Ford Means & Partners, 26 Frimley High Street, Frimley, Camberley, Surrey GU16 5JD. (01276) 25563.

BOWDEN - Muriel Phyllis (née Neal) peacefully on December 6th aged 95, dearly loved mother of Barbara and grandmother of Alison and Christopher. Funeral Service Monday 11th December 2 pm St James's Church, Cotesbourne. Family flowers only but instead please donations to St James's Church.

DEATHS

CROSLAND - John Sydney George, late of Langrish, Petersfield, on 1st December 1995. Requiem Mass Tuesday 12th December at 11 am, St Laurence Church, Petersfield, followed by burial at Bordean House, Langrish, Petersfield. No flowers but donations if desired to Sue Ryder Homes, Bordean House, Langrish. Enquiries to Burley & Geach Solicitors, Petersfield, (01730) 262401.

LEIGH-HUNT - On 3rd December 1995, peacefully in hospital in Cornwall, Helen Elizabeth aged 86 years, wife of the late Courteney Gerard Leigh-Hunt. Funeral Service private. Enquiries Funeral Director Colin Matthews (01209) 717772.

LEVETT - W.H.V. 'Hopper' died peacefully on November 30th in the Conquest Hospital Hastings aged 87. Cricketer Hop-factor, farmer. He will be missed. Cremation at Charing Ashford Kent Monday December 11th at 11.20am. Memorial Service to be arranged in the New Year.

MORGAN-GILES - On 4th December, Marigold wife of Rear Admiral Sir M. Morgan-Giles, mother of Rupert and Jonathan Steel. Died peacefully at home after a long illness very bravely endured. Funeral private.

MORRIS - On December 4th 1995 after a short illness, Basil aged 79. Beloved husband of Maureen (Mo) and dear father of Ann and Nick. Service of Thanksgiving on Tuesday, 12th December at Bury Parish Church at 3 pm. Preceded by cremation. No flowers please but donations to R.N.L.I.

MUNTHE - Malcolm Grane, died peacefully on Saturday November 25th. He is mourned by his son and daughter, his grandsons, family and many friends. The funeral and cremation has taken place privately. His ashes will be buried in Italy. A Memorial Service will be held in the near future, the date and place to be announced.

PROCTOR - On December 4th 1995 in Guildford, peacefully Edward Phillip, dearly beloved husband of the late Rosemarie and father of Sarah, Jonathon, Dominic, Edmund, Claudia, Giles, Stephen and Daniel and grandfather to fifteen grandchildren. The funeral service will take place at St Joseph Church, Guildford, on Friday December 8th at 11.30 am. Donations payable to St Luke's Cancer Fund c/o Pimms Funeral Services, Mary Road, Guildford GU1 4QX.

RABSON - Harold, aged 96, on 3rd December 1995. For the past 68 years, beloved husband of Edith and dearly loved father and grandfather. Funeral on Monday 11th December at St Edmund the King, Pinner Road, Northwood Hills at 11am followed by cremation. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to The Northwood and Pinner Community Hospital, Pinner Road, HA6 1DE.

DEATHS

SALVESEN - John, Peacefully at home on 4th December 1995, dearly loved by Alison and his children and a very special grandad. Funeral Service at Kelso North Parish Church on Friday, 8th December, at 11 am, and thereafter family only. Family flowers only or donations to Special Care Baby Unit, The Sick Childrens Hospital, c/o Kyle Bros, 2 Maxwellheugh, Kelso, TD5 8AY.

SETTATREE - Ralph Albert of Little Westwell, Offord, Kent. Suddenly on 3rd December. Faithful Soldier, Bank Manager, Craftsman and beloved husband, father, grandfather and friend. Funeral St Bartholomew, Offord at 1.15 on Thursday 14th December. Family flowers only. If desired donations to The Royal Artillery Charitable Fund.

SLYNN - Geoffrey on 4th December, aged 62, beloved son of John and Edith and husband of Pauline, father of Richard and Gillian, grandfather of Jeremy and William. Funeral Service St Wilfrid's Church, Davenham, on 11th December at 2.30 pm.

SPRINZ - Hugo Carl on 1st December 1995, late of Walk Farm, Little Weighton, aged 74 years. Dear husband of Helen, father of Deborah and Jacqueline, adoring grandfather of Daniel, Harriet and Vanessa. A fine man. Burial took place on Monday 4th December.

STAVRIDI - V.J.G. (Val) on 4th December in London aged 90. Beloved brother of Dolly Hadjilazaro and a loving uncle and great-uncle. Funeral at 12 noon on 12th December at the Greek Cathedral, Moscow Road, London W2. Enquiries to Kenyon, 12 Chiltern Street, London W1M 1PD, telephone (0171) 935-3728.

STONE - Joan Barbara peacefully on December 4th 1995 after a long illness, widow of Harry, beloved mother of Michael and Peter and grandmother of Charles, Caroline, Nicola, Philippa, Andrew, Laura and Jenny. Funeral at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, at 11.30 am on Saturday December 9th. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to The National Hospital Development Foundation, Queens Square, London WC1N 3BG.

STURGE - Margaret, beloved wife of the late Raymond Sturge, on 4th December 1995 in her 89th year, after a short illness. Loving and much loved mother of Priscilla, Diana, Charlie, Caroline and Sara and her 16 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. Funeral Service at St Nicholas Church, Ashmore, on 8th December at 12 noon.

SWAN - The Lady Hilda, on 4th December, tragically as the result of an accident at Boxford Suffolk, aged 58 years. Beloved wife of Sir Conrad Swan, KCVO, lately Garter Principal King of Arms, devoted mother of Andrew, Elizabeth, Juliana, Catherine and Anastasia and adored Grandmother of her eighteen grandchildren. Funeral to be announced. In lieu of flowers donations, if desired, to The Lady Hilda Memorial Fund for the Orphans of Krakes, Lithuania c/o Barclays Bank, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 6EW.

DEATHS

THOMSON - Edward Arthur (Ted) prominent member of the Gem Trade for 50 years passed away after a short illness on December 2nd. Funeral Service at St Marylebone Crematorium, East End Road, London N2 on Monday December 11th at 3 pm. No flowers. Donations to The Masonic Foundation for the Aged and the Sick, c/o Mr L.F.W. Darby, 55 Oak Tree Drive, Totteridge, London N20 8QJ.

TINDALL - Frederick (Freddie) on December 4th aged 98 peacefully at home, dearly loved husband of Rosemary and father of Richard and Mary (decd). Principal of Salisbury Theological College 1950-1965, Canon Emeritus of Salisbury Cathedral. Private cremation. Thanksgiving Service to be announced later. No flowers please but if desired donations to Royal National Institute for Deaf People c/o I.N. Newman Ltd., 55 Winchester Street, Salisbury.

WEBSTER - On 2nd December 1995 at Peterborough, Leslie Edward aged 84 years, late of Harrow, dear father of Clare and Hugh and loving grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral Service on Monday 11th December at Peterborough Crematorium at 2 pm. Scattering of ashes at Breakspear Crematorium, Ruislip, on Wednesday 13th December at 10 am.

YATES - May of Burbage, Hinckley, Eritrea, Nigeria and Sussex, died very peacefully on Sunday 3rd December 1995. Loving wife of Joseph Percy Yates. She is sadly missed by her boys Desmond and David. Service at Worthing Crematorium on Monday 11th December at 2.40 pm. Flowers or cards to Dillistone Funeral Service, 191 South Farm Road, Worthing, West Sussex BN14 7TW, tel: (01903) 200856.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

HIRSHFIELD - The Lord Desmond Beral Hirshfield. My very dear husband in loving remembrance forever with devotion and love. May you rest in peace. Your dear wife Lady Bronda.

ADOPTIONS

WATERFIELD - On December 4th 1995, to Louise (née Walmwright) and Simon, a daughter, Lara Louise, born on July 31st 1995.

CONGRATULATIONS

TO our son Mark Connolly on achieving his Doctorate on the 4th December 1995. Love from Mom, Dad and Daniel.

GIFTS

A BIRTHDATE Newspaper. Original. Superbly presented. Freephone 0800 906909

WANTED

MINK COATS, fox coats purchased. Best prices paid. All inquiries/details to Box No 2190

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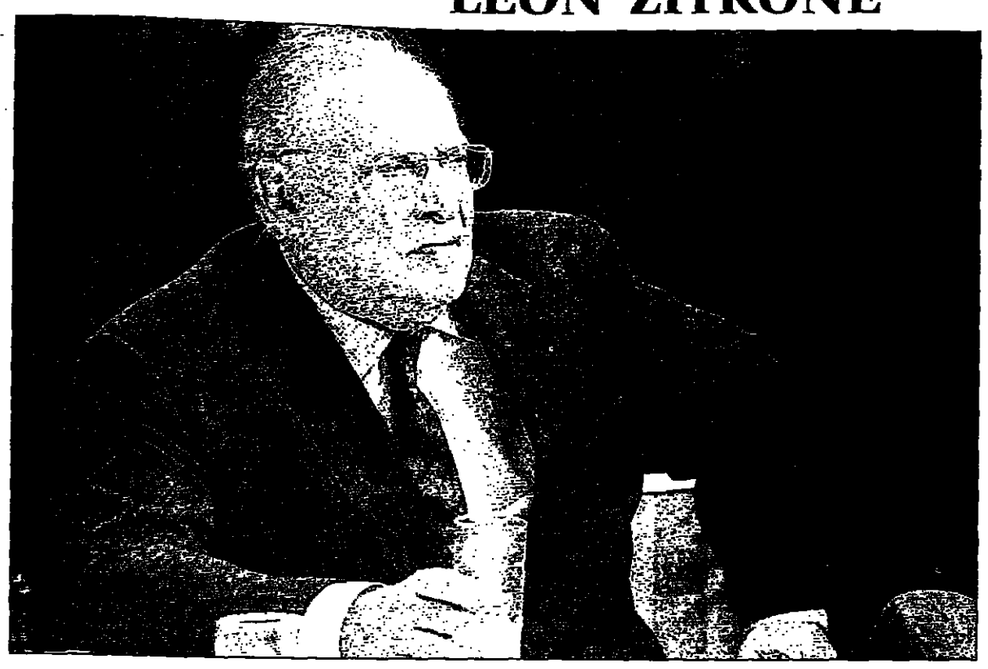
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OBITUARIES

LÉON ZITRONE



Léon Zitrone, French television newscaster and anchorman died in Paris on his birthday aged 81. He was born in Petrograd, Russia, on November 25, 1914.

A PORTLY Frenchman with carefully honed communications skills, Léon Zitrone had an encyclopaedic knowledge which he passed on to his audiences in a precise, slightly pompous language, with frequent use of the subjunctive mood. It was this distinctive delivery which made him, over a period of thirty years, into one of France's most famous television stars.

Many considered him to be the voice of France, and the public loved him, often mobbing him in the streets. With a fame of that sort, it was perhaps small wonder that General de Gaulle should once have remarked: "Zitrone is more popular than me." On another occasion, after Zitrone had interviewed Nikita Khrushchev in the presidential box at the Paris Opéra, de Gaulle — with a touch of sarcasm — told his ministers at the next day's Cabinet meeting: "Believe it or not, Monsieur Zitrone recognised me."

Probably no television network anywhere in the world had such an all-rounder in its service. Apart from being the presenter of the main evening news, Zitrone covered state visits, the annual Bastille Day parade and a long list of royal weddings and funerals abroad.

He commented upon — and explained for the French, usually in exhaustive detail — events as varied as the 1953 Coronation, the state funeral of Churchill, the marriage of the Prince of Wales to Lady Diana Spencer, the marriage and funeral of King Baudouin of the Belgians and the wedding in Monaco of Grace Kelly to Prince Rainier.

In many ways he could be seen as the French equivalent of the BBC's Richard Dimbleby (though, in spite of the fact that they were virtually the same age, Dimbleby's career had begun a generation earlier, in the 1930s, and he died 30 years ago at the early age of 52). Becoming, as he did, virtually a national institution, Zitrone shared Dimbleby's reverential tendencies together with the British broadcaster's political naivety and his undue deference to the Establishment. In their respective primes the ample figures and general bearing of the two men were not dissimilar.

But he was at home in one major sphere of broadcasting where Dimbleby never ventured. His skills as a racing commentator made him the French equivalent of the BBC's Peter O'Sullevan. No horse racing French classic was complete without the presence of "Gros Léon" as he was known to the French racing public, and he was a familiar sight at Auteuil, Longchamp, Chantilly and Deauville, his rotund figure crowned by a top hat. Among his books were two on racing: *L. Z. vous emmène aux courses* and *La Vie d'un cheval de course*.

Indeed, most forms of sport interested him. Only last summer he was on the road commentating upon the Tour de France and had written a book, *Merckx, ou la Rage de vaincre*, on the great Belgian racing cyclist. He also covered eight Olympic Games, in all, while later in his career he popularised televised ice skating, about which he originally knew nothing.

His last years on television in the 1980s saw him co-hosting a slightly ridiculous, but hugely popular, gameshow called *Intervilles* in which teams from French cities competed against each other.

Zitrone was always meticulously prepared for the big event and carried pockets full of cards crammed with information. The heads of the French armed forces regarded him with some terror before the big Bastille Day march past, such was his attention to every kind of regimental and ceremonial detail.

If no one doubted Zitrone's remarkable fluency and his ability to keep talking no matter what the hitch, his critics were quick to pounce upon his often obsequious attitude towards the rich and famous. Once, on meeting the Queen, Zitrone, an ardent French royalist, was so overcome by emotion that he fell at her feet. He shed a tear at Grace Kelly's wedding and, on another occasion, could not resist asking the King of Spain for his autograph. But he was the product of his age and time, and could never have attempted the drawling contempt, shrugs and innuendo-laden grimaces of many current television anchormen.

Zitrone had a difficult start in life. He was born on the roadside as his family prepared to flee Petrograd for France. His father became a dyer in Paris and the family devoted their resources to Léon's education. He spoke Russian and English fluently and had a firm grasp of other languages — something which set him above most other presenters when he joined the old Radiodiffusion Télévision Française in the 1950s and began work in religious broadcasting to Quebec.

He moved to television news in 1956 at a time when there was only one state-controlled channel in France and when audiences for the evening news, or *la grande messe* as it was known, amounted to half the country. The 1960 wedding of King Baudouin of the Belgians and Doña Fabiola in Brussels was a major step in his career as a kind of "Voice of France".

He was newscaster and anchorman of the first channel of the renamed Office de Radiodiffusion Télévision Française for the 16 years 1959-75. He later appeared on the second channel, Antenne 2, after its creation. In the 1980s he took a series of buffoonish roles on both radio and television game shows but his popularity hardly dipped, particularly as he continued his racing commentaries for a nation addicted to the *tiercé* betting system. He also, over the years, had a number of small parts in films such as *Rue des Prairies* (1959), *20,000 lieus sur la terre* (1971) *Bons Baisers de Hong Kong* (1975) and *American Dreamer* (1983).

Besides his books on sport Zitrone wrote about his travels to the Soviet Union and produced studies of some of his favourite women: *Farah, une cruelle destinée* (1980), about the wife of the late Shah, and *Grace Kelly* (1984). In his best-selling 1989 autobiography, *Big Léon*, he offered something of an auto-critique conceding that he had been too indulgent towards important people. He also admitted that he had wanted to become a lawyer or a *préfet* and, perhaps, to sport one of their smart military-style uniforms.

Léon Zitrone is survived by his wife Jacqueline, whom he married in 1949, and by their two daughters and son.

GRAHAM ROSE

Graham Rose, gardening writer, died from cancer on December 3 aged 67. He was born on January 28, 1928.



GRAHAM ROSE held the post of gardening correspondent on *The Sunday Times* from 1978 until the time of his death. He was the most professional and entertaining of gardening experts, whether in his weekly column, on the radio, or in one of his many television appearances, where he would wander around a garden, commenting on its glories in fruity tones.

He was fortunate to be in his prime during a period when the media as a whole could not, it seemed, give too much space to gardening specialists. The gardens he designed for *The Sunday Times* at the Chelsea Flower Show were an annual delight. But he would hold forth just as happily in a suburban garden centre as in the more exalted Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew.

Graham John Rose was born in Newcastle upon Tyne, where his father worked in the shipping industry. He attended Dame Allan's School, and acquired certain characteristics of the Geordie, notably good humour and outspokeness.

He was one of those rather rare men who carve out a new career for themselves at the age of forty. Immediately after graduating from King's College, Durham, he was employed by ICI as a tea planter in India. He returned to England after only a year, and made his base in Pimlico, London, through which a continual stream of visitors passed for the next forty years.

At first he employed his skills as an entomologist, working for a chemical company until 1953. Then, for the next four years, he was technical director of Micron Sprayers. In this capacity, his advice was sought by other companies, notably the aircraft operators and manufacturers Britten-Norman. At their request he was memorably to be seen placing saucers full of live mosquitoes across the wastes of Bembridge marshes, on the Isle of Wight, so that the efficacy of his aerial spraying techniques could be tested. His skills at communicating technical matters to the unscientific layman became highly developed and in 1955 he published his first book, *Crop Protection*, a technical reference work which remained a standard for many years.

In the 1950s and 1960s he spent long periods abroad, mainly in tropical countries, where he met many local plantation owners and crop specialists. Friends encouraged him to seek a wider audience, and in 1968 he joined *The Sunday Times* to write on agriculture. Ten years later he was transferred to the more popular topic of gardening.

Throughout the 1980s, he became one of the leading writers on the subject, sought after as a television presenter and broadcaster. Despite his background, he almost never wrote about bugs, finding far more of interest in the history, design and style of gardening. He would often tell his newspaper readers of his garden or those of his friends. Since this proved impossible during the 11½ month long suspension of the printing of *The Sunday Times*, 1978-79, he occupied his time writing an anecdotal book entitled *Landscape with Weeds*. He followed this with more than half a dozen other books, of which one, *The Low Maintenance Garden* (1983), appeared in many foreign editions.

In 1990, together with Peter King, he founded the *Good Gardens Guide* which has appeared in annual editions ever since. Rose was proud of his writings, but perhaps most pleased with his recreations — garden designing and building. Whether it was his tiny roof garden in Pimlico, or his large property in the South of France (where a few weeks before his death he was bravely directing the construction of a Roman-type amphitheatre), no project was too large for Rose's imagination. Alas, he had learnt to smoke behind the cycle sheds in Newcastle at the age of eight, and cancer caught up with him, though he battled against it until the end.

He married, first, Katy Degrais in 1953. That marriage ended in divorce. He is survived by his second wife, Dorothy, whom he married in 1967. There were no children of either marriage.

HOPPER LEVETT

W. H. V. (Hopper) Levett, cricketer and farmer, died on November 30 aged 87. He was born at Goudhurst, Kent, on January 25, 1908.



WITH the death of "Hopper" Levett, Kent cricket has lost one of its great characters and most ardent supporters. Squarely built, rosy-faced and irresistibly genial, he had held a special place in the county's affections since well before the Second World War. He epitomised the true spirit of Kent cricket.

This came about in the first place because of his wicketkeeping, which would almost certainly have earned him more than one England cap had his playing days not coincided so closely with those of Leslie Ames. In the uniquely gifted roll of Kent wicketkeepers, the names of J. C. Hubble, Ames, Levett, Godfrey Evans and Alan Knott are interchangeable.

William Howard Vincent Levett came from country stock. Like his father, he farmed hops and fruit near Goudhurst. Educated at Brighton College, he had made a name for himself as a fast and fearless wicketkeeper in club cricket, particularly standing up on the leg side, when he was given two matches for Kent in 1930.

In the second of them, against Lancashire at Dover, he was picked out for special commendation in *Wisden*: "Levett, keeping wicket in the absence of Ames, acquitted himself brilliantly, stumping five batsmen and catching three others." In the game as it is played today, wicketkeepers are lucky to stump one batsman a month.

Levett's only Test match was for the side that D. R. Jardine took to India, 1933-34. He had nearly a full season for Kent in 1936, when Ames was having trouble with his back, and eight times he kept wicket for the Gentlemen against the Players, four of them in the big match at Lord's. When he first played for Kent the great Frank Woolley stood at first slip. County players were given half a crown for a catch in those days, and the immortal one had a sharp word with Levett when, in his enthusiasm, he dived to his right to take what Woolley considered to be his catch.

Godfrey Evans said that he owed more to Levett than to anyone else for the advice and encouragement he gave him. Evans joined Kent as a young batsman, keen to learn to keep wicket, and, for Kent's second XI, Levett would let him take the gloves in one innings of the match or the other. Three times in 1939 Ames, Evans and Levett all played in the same Kent championship side, each time with Levett behind the stumps. He used unusually small gloves which, while improving his dexterity, meant that he was more likely to miss something seemingly straightforward if his timing was awry. He played, all-told, 175 first class matches, 142 of them for Kent, and had 475 victims (283 caught, 195 stumped). Unlike Ames, Evans and Knott, he was not a batsman.

Levett was president of Kent, 1974-75, and in his retirement was their tireless supporter at both home and away matches. His wife predeceased him, as did their only child who died when young.

PERSONAL COLUMN

LEGAL NOTICES

ABINGER LIMITED.
Pursuant to section 175 of the Companies Act 1985, Abinger Limited ("the Company") hereby gives notice that:-
The Company approved by special resolution of the Company passed on 1st December 1995 pursuant to section 173 of the Companies Act 1985 a payment out of capital for the purpose of acquiring 200,000,000 of its own ordinary shares by redemption.
The amount of the permissible capital payment for the shares in question is £nil 200,000,000.
The statutory declaration of the directors and the auditors' report required by section 173 of the Companies Act 1985 are available for inspection at 81 Moorgate, London EC2R 6AE.
Any creditor of the Company may, at any time prior to 6 January 1996, apply to the court under section 176 of the Companies Act 1985 for an order prohibiting the payment.

PACIFIC GRAND PRIX LIMITED
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 98 of The Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at Clifton Ford Hotel, 47 Warwick Street, London W1 on 14th December 1995 at 12.00 noon for the purposes provided for in the Section 98 et seq.
A list of the names and addresses of the above Company's Creditors can be inspected at the offices of Latham Crossley & Davis, 7 Keswick Place, London, W1B 3PF, between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.
Dated 29th November 1995
K. WIGGINS, Director

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
BRISTOL DISTRICT REGISTRY
No. 2570 of 1995
IN THE MATTER OF
BRANDON HIRE PLC
and
IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
That the order of the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, Bristol District Registry dated 16 November 1995 confirming cancellation of £4,000,000 standing to the credit of the share premium account of Brandon Hire PLC was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 29 November 1995.
Dated this 30th day of November 1995
Messrs Burges Salmon
Narrow Quay House
Prince Street
Bristol
BS1 4AH
Ref: CER/CMJG/5291.60
Tel: 0117 939 2000

Fastfeed Distribution Limited
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co., situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor) London, W2 6LF on 21st December 1995 at 12.00 noon for the purposes provided for in Section 98 et seq.
A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co., PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor) London W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.
Dated this 1st December 1995
S.E. REITER, Director.

MARGARET LINDSAY BRIER
(Formerly Hannam)
formerly of 53 Greenmeres Road, Bramley, Leeds LS13 4LR
TAKE NOTICE that divorce proceedings, matter no. 9BD1529 were issued out of the Leeds County Court on the 19th July 1995. Due to the unknown whereabouts of the Respondent an Order has been obtained for service to be substituted.
THEREFORE TAKE NOTICE that service is to be effected as from 6th December 1995.
If the above mentioned does not contact Simon Alexander & Co Solicitors of 71 Great George Street, Leeds LS1 3BR ref: MW.SA within 14 days of the date contained in this advertisement the divorce will proceed undefended.

Microwave Modules (UK) Ltd
(In Liquidation)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, David E.M. Mond, FCA of Hodgsons, George House, George Street, Manchester M1 4HF was appointed Liquidator of the above named Company by the Creditors on 30th November 1995.
Notice is also hereby given, pursuant to Section 98(2)(a) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that Jamie Taylor, FIPA of Messrs. Taylor Grahyon & Fry, The Old Exchange, 234 Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2EG is qualified to act as an Insolvency Practitioner in relation to the above company, and will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the company's affairs as they may reasonably require.
Dated 30th November 1995
By Order of the Board
D.E.M. MOND, Liquidator.

IN THE MATTER OF
ZEPHYR
ENVIRONMENTAL LIMITED
AND
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that at a meeting of the creditors of the above named company convened under the provisions of S.98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, and held on 28 November 1995, I, Malvyn Julian Carter, of Carter Backer Winter, Hill House, Highgate Hill, London, N19 5LU was duly appointed Liquidator of the company.
M J Carter
Dated this 30th November 1995

No. 1995 - N - 0520
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
MANCHESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY
IN THE MATTER OF NORWEST HOLST CONSTRUCTION LIMITED
and
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 28th day of November 1995 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice, Manchester District Registry for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £47,000,000 to £889,915 by the cancellation of 46,410,085 issued Ordinary Shares of £1 each in the capital of the Company
AND NOTICE BE FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before His Honour Judge Maddocks, at the Courts of Justice, Crown Square, Manchester, M60 9DJ on Tuesday the 19th day of December 1995 at 10.30 am.
ANY creditor or shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose. A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
Dated this 4th day of December 1995
Alsop Wilkinson of 11 St James's Square, Manchester M2 6DS. Ref: AJ/JM/G-4789.476. Solicitors for the above-named Company

Insolvency Act 1986
COPYLINK SYSTEMS PLC
(Formerly Copylink Limited)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of Creditors of the above named Company will be held at Woodford Moat House, 30 Oak Hill, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 9NY on 14th December 1995 at 10.00 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act.
Notice is also hereby given, pursuant to Section 98(2)(a) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that Jamie Taylor, FIPA of Messrs. Taylor Grahyon & Fry, The Old Exchange, 234 Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2EG is qualified to act as an Insolvency Practitioner in relation to the above company, and will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the company's affairs as they may reasonably require.
Dated 1st December 1995
By Order of the Board
W BROWN, Director.

NOTICE OF 998 MEETING OF CREDITORS
SHOE PARTNERS LIMITED
Principal Trading Address: 2nd Floor, 37 High Street, Thornbury, Bristol BS12 2AR
Company Number: 1375744
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at Forte Posthouse, Bath Road, Hayes, Middlesex UB3 5AJ on 4 January 1996 at 0000hrs for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the Insolvency Act 1986. K S Chalk of Touche Ross & Co. of Colonade Centre, Market Street, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1PA will provide creditors free of charge with such information concerning the company's affairs as they may reasonably require. Creditors requiring this information should contact in the first instance Siobhan Abeleen on 01344 727431. Dated: 30 November 1995 BY ORDER OF THE BOARD Signed I. Byrne - Chairman

OCCUPATIONAL PENSIONS INFORMATION LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
Company number: 1120099
NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF OCCUPATIONAL PENSIONS INFORMATION LIMITED
On 23 November 1995 the company was placed in members' voluntary liquidation and Anthony Victor Lomas of Price Waterhouse was appointed liquidator by the shareholders.
The liquidator gives notice under the provisions of Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to the liquidator, at Price Waterhouse, No.1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL by 10 January 1996, which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidator also gives notice that he will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution.
The company is able to pay all its known creditors in full.
Date 27 November 1995
AV Lomas, Liquidator.

NEW MEDIA PRODUCTIONS LIMITED
Registered Number: 1736067. Nature of business: Production of interactive multi-media software. Trade Classification: 36. Date of appointment of Administrative Receivers: 1st December 1995. Name of person appointing the Administrative Receiver: Barclays Bank PLC. Joint Administrative Receivers: Roger William Clark and David Alan Ralph (Office holder Nos: 1883 and 8930) both of Moore Stephens Booth White, 1 Snow Hill, London EC1A 2EN.

NOTICE OF MEETING OF CREDITORS
GARDNERS LIMITED
(IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, in pursuance of Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at The Lion Hotel, Milford Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire on Monday 18th December at 10.30 am for the purpose of having an Account laid before them, showing the events leading up to their appointment, the manner in which the administrative receivership has been conducted and the property of the company disposed of, and of hearing any explanation that may be given by the Joint Administrative Receivers.
Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting. A person is entitled to vote at the meeting only if he has given to the Receivers, not later than 12.00 noon on the business date before the above day fixed for the meeting, details in writing of the debt that he claims to be due to him from the company, and that debt has been duly admitted by the Receivers. A creditor entitled to attend and vote at the above meeting may appoint a proxy or proxies to attend and vote instead of him.
DATED this 28 day of November 1995
M F STEVENSON
AND P G MILLS
Joint Administrative Receivers

The Insolvency Act 1986
Nova Enterprises Limited
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 2nd January 1996 at 4 Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EH at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 et seq. of the said Act.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Derrington, FIPA of Population & Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98(2)(a) of the said Act who will furnish Creditors with such information as they may reasonably require.
Dated 27th of November 1995
By Order of the Board
J R LISLE, Director.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE OF INTENDED DIVIDEND
Name of Company: Selected Marketing Plc Address of Registered Office: Pacific House 2-9 East Harding Street London EC4A 3AS Nature of Business: Marketing & Mail Order Court: High Court of Justice Number of Matter: 004678 of 1989 Amount per £: 3p in the £ First and Final or Otherwise: First When Payable: Within 4 months from 22 December 1995 Where Payable: Cedric House 8-9 East Harding Street London EC4A 3AS Dated 29 November 1995 J P Richards Joint Liquidator

PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

IN PARLIAMENT
SESSION 1995-96

CITY OF LONDON
(APPROVED PREMISES FOR MARRIAGE)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application is being made to Parliament in the present Session for an Act under the above name or short title for the purposes of which the following is a concise summary:-
To enable approval by the Corporation of London of premises within the City of London (including the Temples) for the solemnization of civil marriages; for notification to and consultation with the Honourable Societies of the Inner and Middle Temples; and for connected purposes.
On and after 4th December 1995 a copy of the Bill may be inspected and copies obtained at the price of 50 pence each at the undermentioned offices.
Objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a Petition against it. If the Bill originates in the House of Commons the latest date for depositing such a Petition in the Private Bill Office of that House will be 30th January 1996; if it originates in the House of Lords the latest date for depositing such a Petition in the office of the Clerk of the Parliaments in that House will be 6th February 1996. Further information may obtained from the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons, the office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Lords, or Messrs. Sherwood & Co, under-mentioned.
Dated 29th November 1995
THE CITY REMEMBRANCER, P.O. Box 270, Guildhall, London EC2P 2EJ. Parliamentary Agent.
SHERWOOD & CO., 35 Great Peter Street,Westminster, London SW1P 3LR, Parliamentary Agents

LEGAL NOTICES ALSO APPEAR ON PAGE 42

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charities: The Brampton Trust (Lend)
The Brampton Trust (Investment)
Scheme for amalgamation of charities and appointments of Trustees
Reference: MOT-248326/77749/1-CD (Lzn)
The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for these charities. A copy can be seen for the next month at 70 St. George's Square, London SW1V 3RD or a copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to 55 Athena Houses, 57-65 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX quoting the reference above.

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity : THE ST. HUGH'S FOUNDATION
Scheme for variation of provisions. Reference: 1005555
The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at this office, or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to 2nd Floor, 20 Kings Parade, Queens Dock, Liverpool L3 4DQ quoting reference above. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

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AMONG THE CANCER PATIENTS

As long ago as 1792 a ward was opened at the Middlesex Hospital for the reception of patients suffering from cancer, where they could remain for an indefinite time, "until relieved by art or released by death".

From that day to this the Cancer Department of the Middlesex Hospital has remained a distinctive feature of the establishment, and has afforded a refuge to a vast number of unfortunate persons. In these cancer wards one finds a gentle and wonderful acquiescence by the patients in their fate.

They indeed accept the situation bravely; and what makes this easier is the fact that admission is at once followed, not only by alleviation of pain, but by the removal of an almost intolerable load of anxiety and discomfort involved in even the attempt to provide for such cases in the two rooms, or the one room, which is all the accommodation the poor can usually afford.

One has known cases of women left alone all day unable to leave their beds, while their husbands were at work from early morning until late evening, without attention of any kind, short of food, and without the most elementary comforts of the sick room. One has known of men who for months have had to live at home with cancerous lip or tongue in daily contact with wife and children.

For such sufferers the cancer wards offer an unspeakable relief, giving treatment and constant care with no expense to themselves or their friends, and without any feeling that they are causing trouble or inconvenience to any one. Some of these patients remain in the wards for months, a few for weeks, and a very few for years, and there are none who do not feel that everything possible is done for them, and that they live together as one family, studied with the one purpose of relieving their sufferings and ensuring their happiness.

In this connexion it is interesting to note that last year the average length of stay of each patient rose from 80 to 110 days, which may reasonably be accepted as some indication of the skillful treatment and nursing bestowed upon the patients. Surely there are among the sympathetic, generous-hearted British public many who are sufficiently imbued with philanthropic sentiments to come forward and offer some help . . .

ON THIS DAY

December 6, 1906

Charity appeals were seldom accepted in the news columns of the paper, but this message from the Middlesex Hospital was given particular prominence.

DEATH OF CHARLOTTE BRONTE'S HUSBAND

The death is announced of the Rev Arthur Bell Nicholls at Banagher, King's County, Ireland, on December 3, in his 90th year.

Assignment for legal aid valid

Norglen Ltd (in liquidation) v Reeds Rains Prudential Ltd and Others
Mayhew-Lewis v Westminster Scaffolding Group plc and Others
Levy and Another v ABN Amro Bank NV

Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Aldous

[Judgment November 24]

Public policy did not preclude the assignment of a cause of action by a party not eligible for legal aid to a party who was eligible, where the object and effect of the assignment was to enable the assignee to obtain legal aid and the assignor remained substantially interested in the benefit of the assigned rights.

The Court of Appeal so stated when:

(i) Allowing an appeal by Clive and Pauline Rodgers, the shareholders and former directors of Norglen Ltd, from Mr Justice Morritt who had refused their application to be substituted as plaintiffs in an action brought by the company against the defendants, Reeds Rains Prudential Ltd, Jonathan Sharp, Graham Richardson and Metier Property Holdings Ltd, and had ordered the company to give security for costs under section 726 of the Companies Act 1985;

(ii) Allowing an appeal by Lenn Mayhew-Lewis, the major shareholder and director of the original plaintiff in the action, Thermo Products Ltd, from Sir Peter Pain who, on the application of the defendants, Westminster Scaffolding Ltd, JMD Access Equipment Ltd and Aberwall Developments Ltd, had set aside the order of Mr Jeffrey Burke, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the High Court, substituting Mr Mayhew-Lewis for the company as plaintiff in the action;

(iii) Refusing leave to amend the notice of appeal and dismissing an appeal by the defendant, ABN Amro Bank NV, from Mr R. J. Walker, QC, who, sitting as a deputy judge of the High Court, reversing the master's decision, had declined to strike out the writ and statement of claim of the plaintiffs, André Levy and Mairade Levy, under Order 18, rule 19 of the Rules of the Supreme Court or the inherent jurisdiction.

In *Norglen*, the first case, the company went into liquidation after beginning an action against the defendants. Its claim was for rescission of a contract for sale of a plot of land and an order for its return to the company and damages for fraudulent misrepresentation and conspiracy against the second to fourth defendants and negligence against the first defendant.

The liquidator had assigned the causes of action to Mr and Mrs Rodgers, who claimed to benefit personally should the action succeed, on terms that the fruits of the action would be first applied towards settling the company's debts and, as to the balance, equally between the company and themselves. They obtained legal aid to prosecute their application for substitution.

In *Mayhew-Lewis*, the second case, the company went into administrative receivership after beginning its action against the defendants for delivery up of a consignment of scaffolding or its value and damages for wrongful interference with its goods. The consignment, purchased by the company from a third party, had in the event been paid for by Mr Mayhew-Lewis, who remained guarantor of a debt owed by the company.

The cause of action had been assigned by the administrative receivers to Mr Mayhew-Lewis on terms that he was to be sole beneficiary of any proceeds of the action. He obtained legal aid to apply for substitution as plaintiff.

In *Levy*, the third case, the plaintiffs began proceedings, with the benefit of legal aid, against the defendant for negligence and breach of contract, having previously caused a company in their control, through which they had allegedly acted in respect of the defendant, to assign to them all its relevant rights.

The defendant sought to amend its notice of appeal to assert that the assignment to the plaintiffs was void, being a gratuitous disposition of assets, and as having been executed in breach of their fiduciary duties as directors; that they had no genuine commercial interest in taking the assignment which was accordingly void for maintenance and/or champerty.

Mr Charles Purle, QC and Mr David Stern for Mr and Mrs Rodgers; Mr David Stern for the liquidator; Mr Peter W. Smith, QC, for the third and fourth defendants; Mr John Greenbourne for the first and second defendants.

Mr Adrian Salter for Mr Mayhew-Lewis; the defendants did not appear and were not represented;

Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Mr Kenneth MacLean for Amro; Mr Stuart Isaacs, QC and Mr Alastair Walton for Mr and Mrs Levy.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS, giving the judgment of the court, said that the statutory powers of liquidators and trustees in bankruptcy to dispose of company property to any person had been the subject of much judicial consideration.

In *Ramsey v Hartley* ([1977] 1 WLR 686) and *Kitson v Hardwick* ((1872) LR 7 CP 473) the argument had been rejected that it was contrary to public policy for a trustee to assign a cause of action to the bankrupt on terms that, if the action succeeded, part of the proceeds would be paid over to the trustee.

Nor was there any distinction of principle between the power of a liquidator to assign a chose in action to a former officer of the company and the power of a trustee to assign to the bankrupt.

The wide statutory words of the relevant sections of the insolvency legislation not merely absolved the actions of trustees in bankruptcy and liquidators from the taint of maintenance and champerty, but might also have the effect of putting a trustee in a better position than a bankrupt and a liquidator in a better position than a company by enabling them to assign what the others could not have assigned: see *Freighter Ltd v International Express Co Ltd* (unreported, April 15, 1980, CA).

The court also referred to *Bang and Olufsen UK Ltd v Ton Systeme Ltd* (unreported, July 16, 1993, CA), to the valuable summary of the history of the present issue given by Mr Justice Lightman in *Grovewood Holdings plc v James Capel and Co Ltd* ([1995] Ch 80, 86) and to observations of Lord Hoffmann in *Stein v Blake* (*The Times* May 19; [1995] 2 WLR 710, 721-722).

In *Norglen*, the liquidator had exercised his statutory power to assign the company's causes of action to Mr and Mrs Rodgers. That appeared on the face of it to have been a sensible course, since the company was relieved of any liability for the costs of the action and the proceeds, if successful, were to be applied in the first instance to meeting creditors' claims. It was an apparently valid exercise of statutory power.

Lord Hoffmann's observations plainly accepted that the effect of an assignment might be to enable a bankrupt assignee to sue with the benefit of legal aid which would not have been available to the trustee-assignor, to the prejudice of the party sued.

There was no obvious reason why it should make any difference if the obtaining of such legal aid was the object of the assignment as well as its effect: see *R v The Law Society, Ex parte Nicholson* (unreported, February 22, 1985).

Those rulings were inconsistent with the view that the court should not give effect to an assignment made to enable the assignee to obtain legal aid.

The court also referred to *Joyce v Sengupta* ([1993] 1 WLR 337, 343-345) which threw valuable light on the proper approach.

In *Eurocross Sales Ltd v Cornhill Insurance plc* (*The Times* September 5; [1995] 1 WLR 1517), which did not involve a liquidation or bankruptcy, the court was not, unhappily, referred to *Stein v Blake* or *Ex parte Nicholson*.

The court referred to *Advanced Technology Structures Ltd v Cray Valley Products Ltd* ([1993] BCLC 723) which had been distinguished in the *Eurocross* decision.

Although right on its facts, the *Advanced Technology* case had been read as authority for a wider proposition: that assignment of a right of action by a party not entitled to legal aid to a party so entitled was contrary to public policy and unlawful if the object and effect of the assignment was to enable the assignee to obtain legal aid and if the assignor continued to be substantially interested in the fruits of the assigned rights of action.

That proposition had been accepted in *Eurocross*. The court was, however, persuaded by the balance of authority, and reflection of the underlying principle, that the proposition was unsound and should not have been accepted.

The present case involved an assignment by a liquidator with no element of pretence. The fact that the company was ineligible for legal aid whereas Mr and Mrs Rodgers were prima facie eligible was a matter for consideration by the Legal Aid Board, but was not a ground for refusing to substitute them as plaintiff.

In *Mayhew-Lewis*, following what the court had said in *Norglen*, the judge's reasoning could not be supported. The powers of an administrative receiver were similar to those of a liquidator.

A creditor of an insolvent company had, absent some additional factor, a substantial and genuine commercial interest in proceedings to recover company assets.

It did not make the assignment invalid that a motivating factor was that the assignee, unlike the assignor, would qualify for legal aid. The assignment was not a sham. Mr Mayhew-Lewis had a sufficient interest in the prosecution of the action and it followed that appeal would be allowed.

In *Levy*, although it was true that there was material to support the defendant's submission that the plaintiffs had chosen to conduct their business through the medium of the company, which was the defendant's customer, such a conclusion could not be reached at the present stage of the proceedings.

The court concluded that it would not be right to allow the defendant to raise the matters contained in the proposed amendment for the first time on the appeal and accordingly declined leave to amend.

Solicitors: Beiesh Fox & Co, Manchester; Abson Hall Loring, Macclesfield; Jones Maidment Wilson, Altrincham; James Chapman & Co, Manchester.

Law & Co, Leicester.

Slaughter & May; Cawdery Kaye Fireman & Taylor, Hampstead.

When jury separates before verdict

Regina v Oliver

Before Lord Justice Roch, Mr Justice Douglas Brown and Mr Justice Blofeld

[Judgment November 24]

Guidance on directions to be given to juries who were to be allowed to separate before reaching their verdicts was given by the Court of Appeal.

Their Lordships, in a reserved judgment, dismissed the appeal of Ian David Oliver against his conviction on March 29, 1995 at Nottingham Crown Court (Judge Matthewman and a jury) of trading with intent to defraud and false accounting on which, on May 11, 1995 he was sentenced to 15 months imprisonment.

Section 43 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 provides:

"If, on the trial of any person for an offence on indictment, the court thinks fit, it may at any time (whether before or after the jury have been directed to consider their verdict) permit the jury to separate."

Mr Justin Wigoder, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Richard Griffith-Jones for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE BLOFELD, giving the judgment of the court, said that the grounds of appeal were in no way concerned with the facts of the case but were entirely concentrated on matters connected with the jury.

Section 43 of the 1994 Act came into force during the trial, and it was accepted that it was proper for the judge to allow the jury to separate after he had sent them out to consider their verdicts.

The day before he concluded his summing up the judge referred to that and, to put the jurors' minds at rest said "you will not have to be cooped up in a hotel".

At the conclusion of the summing up the jurors were sent home with instructions, inter alia, not to discuss the case with anybody.

On the following morning a member of the jury brought two textbooks on accounting to the court and in the presence of the other members of the jury asked if he could take them into the retiring room.

He was told he could not and the judge then gave the whole jury a direction that the textbooks could not be used and said "concentrate on the evidence you have heard during the course of the trial and the documents you have received during the trial".

It was argued on appeal that the judge misdirected the jury in not directing them that they must not carry out their own researches or experiments once they had dispersed.

Section 43 of the 1994 Act came into operation on February 5, 1995 and, as far as their Lordships were aware, no case had been before the court that had considered the appropriate directions to be made when a judge was asking a jury to separate. Nor was there any practice direction on the matter.

The starting point was the principle set out in *R v Davis (George)* ([1975] 62 Cr App R 194), that a jury might not, when once they had retired to consider their verdict, be given any additional evidence, matter or material to assist them.

Applying that principle their Lordships considered that the direction to a jury who, under section 43 of the 1994 Act, were to be allowed to separate during consideration of their verdict or verdicts should contain the following matters:

1 That the jury must decide the case on the evidence and the arguments that they had seen and heard in court and not on anything they might have seen or heard or that they might see or hear outside the court.

2 That the evidence had been completed and that it would be wrong for any juror to seek for or to receive further evidence or information of any sort about the case.

3 That the jury must not talk to anyone about the case save to the other members of the jury and then only when they were deliberating in the jury room.

They must not allow anyone to talk to them about that case unless that person was a juror and he or she was in the jury room deliberating about the case.

4 That when they left court they should try to set the case they were trying on one side until they returned to court and retired to their jury room to continue the process of deliberating about their verdict or verdicts.

It was not necessary for the judge to use any precise form of words provided the matters set out above were properly covered in whatever words he chose to use.

It would be desirable for that direction to be given in full on the first dispersal by the jury and for a brief reminder to be given at each subsequent dispersal.

There might be particular circumstances in a particular case when it would be appropriate for a judge to give further directions. It was not possible for their Lordships to anticipate every factual situation that might arise.

Although in the instant case the judge had failed to give a full direction when the jury first dispersed what happened subsequently rendered that irregularity immaterial.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Department of Trade and Industry.

Limit to justices' hospital order powers

Regina v Chippenham Magistrates' Court, Ex parte Thompson

Before Lord Justice Staughton and Mr Justice Rougier

[Judgment November 27]

Justices had no jurisdiction under section 37(3) of the Mental Health Act 1983 to make a hospital order in respect of a person charged with an offence triable only on indictment.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated when dismissing an application for judicial review by Alastair Thompson of a decision of September 15, 1995 by Chippenham Justices that they had no jurisdiction to make a hospital order under section 37(3) of the 1983 Act and that Mr Thompson be committed for trial at Swindon Crown Court for two offences of aggravated robbery and two offences of common assault.

Section 37 of the 1983 Act provides: "(3) Where a person is charged before a magistrates' court with any act or omission as an offence and the court would have power, on convicting him of that offence, to make an order under subsection (1) above in his case as being a person suffering from mental illness ... then, if the court is satisfied that the accused did the act ... charged, the court may, if it thinks fit, make such an order without convicting him."

Mr Richard Gordon, QC and Mr Craig Barlow for the applicant; Mr Ian Glen for the justices.

MR JUSTICE ROUGIER said that the applicant had a long history of schizophrenic illness. Following his arrest, psychiatric reports made findings that, in appropriate circumstances, would have justified a section 37(3) order.

He appeared before the justices at a committal hearing. They declined to make a section 37(3) order for want of jurisdiction.

Mr Gordon submitted that section 37(3) gave magistrates a very wide discretion to take the medical rather than the penal route where a defendant was obviously mentally ill, whether cases were triable summarily or on indictment.

The court was referred to *R v Ramsgate Justices, Ex parte Kazmarek* ((1985) 80 Cr App R 366). The court was also referred to Home Office Circular 66/90 *Provision for mentally disordered offenders*, whose author accorded with the applicant's submission, saying that justices had power whatever the nature of the charge.

In his Lordship's judgment, section 37(3) gave a short answer to the point. That subsection by its clear terms assumed the court would have power to try the person concerned.

The phrase "the court would have power, on convicting him" was not a deeming phrase for the purposes of subsection (1). If the court had no power to try, for example as in the present case, aggravated robbery which was an indictable offence, it could not convict him of that offence.

Any other interpretation ran contrary to the plain intention of the Act which afforded the public a far wider protection against crimes where a defendant had severe mental illness.

In the magistrates' court there was no jurisdiction under section 41 to make a restriction order. Otherwise it would produce the result that justices would have no power to commit to the crown court.

In cases of aggravated robbery, if it was suggested justices could dispose of the case without hearing evidence, all his Lordship would say was that one needed to read the Act with care.

LORD JUSTICE STAUGHTON said that the applicant's argument was supported by Home Office Circular 66/90 that stated in its general introduction that its purpose was to draw the attention of the courts and those responsible for dealing with mentally disordered persons who committed criminal offences to the legal powers which existed.

His Lordship preferred to look at the Act to see what a court's powers were rather than the circular. The circular did not accurately state the powers, while its predecessor, Home Office Circular 69/83 did do so.

The circular had been changed after *Ex parte Kazmarek*, which was decided on an offence triable either way. Where a defendant elected trial by jury, section 37(3) could still apply because of the condition that the court would have power on conviction to make a hospital order.

It was a different question as to whether justices would have power to do anything at all on a case triable on indictment if they thought they would commit the offender for trial at the crown court.

Solicitors: Penleys, Dursley; Crown Prosecution Service, Chippenham.

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AIR PRODUCTS

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Could a change in schedules bring reluctant investors flocking to ITN, the makers of Britain's most watched but least flexible weekday bulletin?

News at Ten: great viewing, wrong time



BRENDA MADDOX

At last, the Christmas gift for the man who has everything. Why not buy him shares in Independent Television News? By law, nearly one third of the shares in Britain's most-watched news service must be sold by January 1, 1996. Yet no buyers have appeared.

As a result, the shares have had to be put into a black hole (that is, an escrow account) until a taker turns up. The desperate sellers are the commercial television giants, Carlton and Granada. Their respective ITN stakes swelled to 36 per cent when they acquired Central and London Weekend Television, which were also ITN shareholders.

As the 1990 Broadcasting Act stipulates that no Channel 3 franchise-holder may own more than 20 per cent of the "nominated news provider" (in other words, ITN), divestiture was inevitable. The first deadline was December 1994. But the Independent Television Commission (ITC) relented and granted a year's extension.

The obvious bidders are other ITV companies, but they are soured by a deeper discontent. Both Yorkshire-Tyne Tees and HTV in Wales have backed away because their chairmen fervently and bitterly believe that ITN charges ITV too much for the news it provides the network. While ITV pays ITN £57 million a year, Channel 4 pays only £17 million. What's more, the franchise-winner (unless overturned) for Channel 5 will get its ITN news for a mere £5 million. The ITV companies feel they are being forced to cross-subsidise their rivals.

The complaint is an old one. It was heard in the days when all the ITV companies together were the owners of ITN. ITN's defence today, with a more diverse shareholding and after much agonised cost-cutting, remains as it was. A world-class, first-class news service cannot be provided on a shoestring.

But some of the smaller companies within ITV do not believe this. Once compelled by law to be shareholders of ITN, they dropped out in 1993 when they were allowed the choice. They will not come back in (to join ITN's present owners, Reuters, Anglia and Scottish Television, as well as Granada and Carlton) unless ITN comes up with a new and cheaper contract with ITV.

Viewers should care. ITN's journalistic awards are hard-earned and well-deserved. Moreover, *News at Ten* is the country's most popular weekday source of nightly news. Trevor McDonald, its main presenter, is, according to a recent poll by *The Sunday Times*, one of the most admired men in Britain.

Any deterioration in quality or range of ITN newsgathering would be a national loss, and may already have occurred. Many nights I feel that ITN is leaning too far downmarket to give the viewers the news they want rather than the news that is news. On ITN, you can be sure, the Queen Mother's hip will outrank the Paris riots.

The trouble is that ITN, 40 years old this year, has a contradiction at its heart that is far worse than the BBC's. In a way, it is not a business at all, more a legislative construct, heavily dependent on statutory quality stipulations for its continued monopoly-supply of news to ITV and Channel 4.

Both contracts are subject to periodic renewal and, to retain them, ITN must retain the ITC's blessing as Most Favoured News Provider. The ITC must, as now, from time to time consider whether a second provider, like Sky News owned by BSkyB (which belongs to the owners of *The Times*), might be recognised.

ITN's woes are compounded by the obligation embedded in the 1990 Act by one of ITN's stalwarts, Sir Alastair Burnet, who persuaded Mrs Thatcher that, under new legislation, the ITV companies must not only be required to provide high-quality news at peak time, but to show it simultaneously. ITN must be networked: every part of the country must show it at the same time.

No wonder some of the smaller companies balk at the bill they are forced to pay. Different parts of the country observe different evening-meal and bed-times. For their money, they would at least like to be able to shift the ITN news to a time when it did not interrupt the evening's entertainment, when they would prefer to be showing drama or a film.

Could not the ITV companies' discontent with ITN be relieved if they were allowed to move *News at Ten* from its present slot? It is hard to believe that the heavens would fall. As long as it provides news in peak time — it has between 6pm and 10.30pm to fit it in — the network would be meeting its public-service obligations.

As things stand, uncertainty will dog ITN's future, even though no one outside the interested parties seems seriously to think that its contracts with ITV and Channel 4 are at all in jeopardy.

Now finally: as one who reacts to Anne Diamond the way that some do to the Princess of Wales, I cannot be sorry that she is losing her couch-slot on BBC1's *Good Morning*. Round-eyed righteousness is hard to take. So is trumpeting your good works in the tabloids.



Janet Street-Porter comes across as valiant, if eccentric

The battle for Live TV!

Alexandra Frean on the clash of egos at Canary Wharf

The story behind Live TV!, the nationwide cable channel launched by the Mirror Group this summer, will be revealed next week in a fly-on-the-wall BBC television documentary. The BBC has named the programme *Nightmare at Canary Wharf*, after the building that houses Live TV!'s studios. It might equally have been titled *How Not to Launch a New Television Station*.

With inspired foresight, the BBC documentary producer, Robert Thirkell, followed the key protagonists in the Live TV! saga from the station's conception in September 1994 to its launch on June 1995 and beyond. The programme shows the brave but fruitless efforts of the team to create a channel from scratch on a budget of £2,000 an hour in an industry where "normal" costs range from £50,000 to £1 million an hour.

Certainly Thirkell could not have found a more potentially explosive and unlikely combination of media characters than Janet Street-Porter, the former head of BBC youth programming who was hired as Live TV!'s managing director, Kelvin MacKenzie, the macho former *Sun* editor who oversees the Mirror Group's television interests including Live TV!, and David Montgomery, the former editor of the *News of the World* who is now chief executive of the Mirror Group.

Street-Porter comes over as valiant, though slightly eccentric. An insight into her "person management" techniques comes during a conversation with a colleague with whom she is discussing what sort of lighting they should install in the studios. Unable to win him round, she abruptly ends the discussion by putting her head down on her desk. "It's like a battle of wills, the only way to get my way is to behave like a child," she says.

Kelvin MacKenzie, by contrast, made sure that he was not filmed in crisis situations. We see him in relaxed mood in his office. "He did his best to come over as calm and thoughtful. It was much easier for him to do that," Thirkell says. Montgomery appears as courteous, firm and surprisingly athletic — at one point he is shown bounding effortlessly up four flights of stairs.

Live TV!'s main claim when it launched on cable television networks in June was to be Britain's only provider of live programming 24 hours a day, a supposedly seamless rolling magazine-style output all day long, short news bulletins, advertisements and a two-minute slot for "people news" every hour. It also aimed to be celebrity-led with plenty of gossip.

Live TV!, in its original format, was doomed even before it went on air. MacKenzie was clearly clearing the path for Street-Porter's departure right from the start.

Twelve weeks after Live TV!'s launch, while an exhausted Street-Porter was holidaying in France, MacKenzie signed a deal to show rugby league on Live TV!, in a move that destroyed the station's original programming concept at a stroke. Street-Porter resigned immediately.

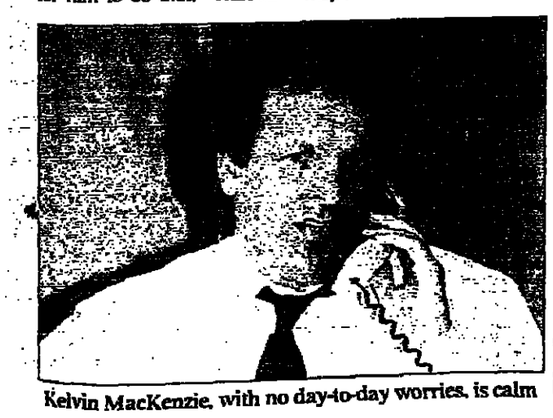
> 'The only way to get my way is to behave like a child'

MacKenzie, however, was not Street-Porter's only enemy at Live TV!. The documentary shows that she was also condemned from the start by lack of money, a painfully inexperienced presenting team, tardy equipment suppliers and a general resistance among audiences to anything other than old-fashioned programmes with a beginning, a middle and an end.

Ultimately, however, the original plans for Live TV! were hampered by the management's attempts to superimpose the mechanisms of newspaper production and management onto the television industry.

Since Street-Porter's departure Live TV! has moved towards a more structured format with half-hour programmes. Next month, it is promising to launch a daily soap opera about a female television executive in her forties. It is to be called, *Canary Wharf*.

● Nightmare at Canary Wharf, *Monday, December 11, BBC2, 9.45pm.*



Kelvin MacKenzie, with no day-to-day worries, is calm

Mike Hollingsworth on how the PC brigade has caused the demise of the BBC's flagship morning programme

Sun sets on Good Morning

REX FEATURES



Former BBC executive Mike Hollingsworth with his wife, the *Good Morning* presenter Anne Diamond

With friends like me, the BBC does not need enemies. Believe it or not, I am a friend. But a friend seriously distressed by a BBC which seems bent on self-delusion.

This week, the BBC has allowed hints that the *Good Morning... with Anne and Nick* programme which I originated, formatted and launched as Editor on BBC1, is to end with the current series. As on similar occasions at the BBC, the people concerned most with the programme are the last to know. One of those is my wife, Anne Diamond, who presents the programme with Nick Owen. She remained as a presenter of the programme when, two years ago, frustrated at the bureaucracy and apparent lack of support within the organisation, I decided that I had had enough and left.

The programme was handed over to a young, bright woman, who had worked for me as a researcher — but who had never produced the programme and had only recently been working as a journalist on a Fleet Street gossip column. She performed well — she spoke well — at the job interview and was given an editorship. The reason for her appointment, I was told, was that she was a woman. When I pointed out that she had never produced a programme, I was told that she would be "shored up". When I asked by whom, I was told, "by more experienced women".

The drive was on, it seems, to move more women into senior positions. It would "look good" to the outside world. So ten hours of live broadcasting a week on the BBC's main channel were placed into hands which were not yet ready to receive it. The viewer — the licence payer — was about to be experimented on again.

Three years before, I had been approached to help recover the BBC's lost ratings in the daytime hours. A mixture of so-so programmes and a constantly changing schedule had guaranteed that a strongly formatted and heavily supported ITV programme — *This Morning* — was drawing the available audience. By the time I was asked to take on the task of redressing the balance, the territory had been almost totally ceded and the only possible way to fight fire was with fire itself. And so, *Good Morning* was born, using a formula familiar to television viewers in America for many years — and made popular by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen at TV-am in the 1980s.

A rationale had to be observed. The programme had to appeal to the people who would be available to watch it at that time of day. It had to overcome the guilt factor of watching television at a time when other activities beckoned. It had to be warm and friendly, and in some cases provide a real lifeline to the lonely or distressed. If there were messages to be delivered, they had to be palatable and user friendly rather than the in-your-face style so beloved of other peak-time programming. The programme would need support and time, years probably, to build its audience. It was a bitter pill for some within the BBC to swallow, and a great deal of snobbery became evident.

There are some who believe the daytime hours should be used as the "nursery slopes" of television. That is to misunderstand the special nature of the audience available to watch during the day.

Our plan worked. Slowly but surely the programme built its following. ITV started squealing about cheap imitations and would heavily publicise its supremacy in the ratings whenever *Good Morning* was off the air. But there was no doubting the formation of a following for a programme which was taking on its own tone and shape.

Two years later, the programme was running neck and neck with the supposed opposition. I call it the "supposed opposition" because much of the programme's serious obstacles were actually being erected from within, rather than from elsewhere. The popular style of the show was frowned upon. We frequently addressed news agendas that would have graced the tabloids, rather than the more sober BBC newsroom. We often got to the story first and addressed more human angles than the issue-led direction of News and Current Affairs. We laughed a lot and cried occasionally, and people rang Anne and Nick to speak to them as friends — "you're part of our family". It did not appear to be a very BBC-like programme. We appeared to be giving the viewers what they wanted, rather than what was "good" for them. "That's not the way we do things here," I often heard. We did un-heavy interviews with politicians and got them to speak more openly than on other, more serious programmes. The BBC didn't like it. John Smith relaxed on our sofa days before he died. And, because it represented a social sea-change, we highlighted and analysed the death of the toddler Jamie Bulger, when others ignored it. The Princess of Wales talked live on the programme about bulimia. The viewers loved it, but inside the organisation they did not always like our perception of what people might be talking about in the pubs and clubs and on the buses.

When I left, frustrated at the lack of real internal support and acknowledgement, I was promised that the flavour and format of the show would be retained. It was not long, however, before the political correctness of the new BBC was being applied through a younger editor. People who had worked hard and shown strong loyalty to me and the show for two years suddenly found themselves shunned and out of a job. Seventeen people in all. The cosy and warm fire-lit studio in which Anne and Nick was set, changed to a replica of a Hampstead apartment. The calls from viewers were no longer canvassed and soon the 40 people who answered the phones were looking at phones that didn't ring. Celebrities who had always blossomed under the gentle but probing interrogation of two highly capable journalist-presenters, began to be less welcome on the programme. The talk about babies and partners dwindled. Life was not to be viewed lightly, after all.

Then the viewing figures dropped like a stone. You can only take so much "social action" and barely-disguised adult education. The Hollywood glitter and nightclub bright feel of the other channel became dominant again. The feeling of "belonging", of seeing Anne and Nick as "part of the family" died away, subjects have to be "purposive" and emotion-related material is clearly out. But viewers do not like being experimented upon and have begun to turn their collective back.

The solution of course, is easy — for all but the BBC. It requires an admission that they've got it wrong. And then, rather than shooting the messenger — the presenters — the firing squad should point its weapons at the real people who got it wrong, the producers. In the BBC, however, producers do not get blamed. They get promoted. Presenters are the discarded ones.

Any moment now, Anne and Nick will be required by their producers to discuss the fate of the Russian grain harvest or some other obscure subject... and a truly personal interactive piece of family broadcasting will have joined *Nationwide* and *That's Life* in the graveyard of watchable television.

The grey man in the Armani suit will have walked over the audience, yet again.

Experiment in the daylight

THE SMALL audiences available for daytime television could, in theory, make it a perfect testing ground for experimental programmes. If the innovative stuff turns out to be a hit, it can be swiftly switched to a peak-time slot. There is little downside if it turns out to be a flop, since relatively few people will have seen it. *Alexandra Frean writes.*

All too frequently, however, broadcasters are wary of upsetting their daytime audiences and little that is new or experimental is screened at this time. The space is filled instead with magazine-format chat programmes, game shows and cheap, imported dramas.

One little-known gem in the current schedule, however, is BBC2's *Ready, Steady, Cook*, a cookery game show in which contestants have 20 minutes to create a cheap meal. The show, presented by Fern Britton, has become cult viewing among students.

Despite intense media hype about the ratings battle between BBC1's mid-morning magazine show *Good Morning... with Anne and Nick*, presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen, and ITV's *This Morning*, presented by the husband and wife team of Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley, it is in fact a one-horse race. *This Morning* ranks 11th in our chart with 2.1 million viewers, while *Good Morning... with Anne and Nick* does not make it into our chart at all. Some of the reasons for this are explored above.

Although *Neighbours*, the Australian soap, attracts just 3.8 million viewers for its lunch-time edition, the programme's evening repeat usually adds a further eight to ten million, making it one of BBC1's most popular shows.

BBC2 and Channel 4 have reached stalemate in their battle to attract fans of the American chat-show host Oprah Winfrey. Channel 4 is showing an old Oprah series on Tuesdays, while the Beeb has a more recent run, scheduled on Thursdays. Both programmes attracted 2.1 million viewers.

TOP-20 DAYTIME PROGRAMMES

November 13 to 19, 1995

	Programme	Date	Time	Chan	Producer	Genre	Audience (m) All 4+
1	Neighbours	Thu 16	13.30	BBC1	Grundy International	Soap	3.8
2	Ready, Steady, Cook	Fri 17	16.30	BBC2	Bazal Productions	Lifestyle	3.5
3	Home And Away	Thu 16	13.39	ITV	Seven Network Australia	Soap	3.5
4	Fifteen-To-One	Wed 15	16.31	CHA4	Regent Productions	Game Show	3.3
5	Today's The Day	Tue 14	16.01	BBC2	Mantrom Films	Game Show	2.8
6	Esther	Mon 13	17.01	BBC2	BBC	Consumer Affairs	2.7
7	Shortland Street	Wed 15	17.11	ITV	Grundy International	Soap	2.7
8	Columbo	Fri 17	13.53	BBC1	Universal Pictues	Drama Series	2.5
9	A Country Practice	Thu 16	13.56	ITV	JNP Production	Soap	2.4
10	Vanessa	Wed 15	14.22	ITV	Anglia/Multimedia Enterprises	Chat Show	2.2
11	This Morning	Fri 17	11.08	ITV	Granada Television	Consumer Affairs	2.1
12	Oprah Winfrey	Tue 14	17.00	CHA4	Harpo Productions	Chat Show	2.1
13	The Oprah Winfrey Show	Thu 16	17.00	BBC2	Harpo Productions	Chat Show	2.1
14	The Flying Doctors	Thu 16	13.54	BBC1	Crawford Productions	Drama Series	2.0
15	Supermarket Sweep	Tue 14	09.28	ITV	Central/Fremantle/AL Howard	Game Show	2.0
16	Ricki Lane	Wed 15	17.01	CHA4	Garth Ancier/Columbia Pictures	Chat Show	1.9
17	The Time The Place	Tue 14	10.01	ITV	Anglia Television	Consumer Affairs	1.9
18	Knots Landing	Mon 13	13.54	BBC1	Roundelay MF/Lorimar	Soap	1.8
19	Animal Hospital	Tue 14	16.24	BBC1	BBC	Documentary	1.7
20	Hawkeye	Wed 15	13.54	BBC1	Stephen J Cannell Productions	Drama Series	1.7

BARB (Broadcasters' Audience Research Board).David Graham & Associates 01823-322829
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Spirits seek a tonic

Alan Mitchell sees truces break as advertisers fight falling drink sales

Question: what do Gérard Depardieu, the Russian Revolution, a disappointing dog which fails to talk, and Scottish comedian Phil Kay have in common? Answer: they all feature in a wave of spirits advertising on television following the industry's decision to abandon their gentlemen's agreement banning it.

Now the big battalions are falling over themselves in a rush to maximise the Christmas sales bonanza. In a standard four-week trading period, a normal brand makes around 8 per cent of its annual sales. But over the coming four weeks, lager sales will rise by 50 per cent and spirits by much more. Nearly 20 per cent of all brandy is sold in the four weeks before Christmas; 31 per cent of malt whisky, and 45 per cent of liqueurs, say specialist market researchers, Stats MR. For some brands, the skew is even more dramatic. More than 27 per cent of all annual sales of Baileys are made in just seven days before Christmas Day.

But can a television tidal wave really reach the parts that matter? Vodka marketers who long ago cleverly positioned this tasteless liquid as young and trendy were enjoying rising sales before their television campaigns began. In stark contrast, the outlook for whisky and gin is distinctly sobering. Together they account for nearly 60 per cent of the UK's £6 billion spirits market. But they are stuck in an image timewarp. Volume sales of gin have collapsed by a quarter over the past five years, and whisky sales have slumped by 20 per cent.

That decline looks like continuing as the up-and-coming generation of drinkers shuns the products. Ten years ago, four in ten 25 to 34-year-olds drank Scotch. Now that has fallen to one in four. Consumption among 35 to 44-year-olds has collapsed from a half to a third, says Mintel, the market researcher.

As a result, nearly every television commercial is trying to make its brand seem more contemporary in some way or other. Bell's, for example, has produced an advert that contrasts the quiet tradition of the distillery with the hubbub and excitement of the pub. "Who says it's a quiet drink?" it asks.

Gérard Depardieu's task is to persuade us that Courvoisier is not just a formal after-dinner drink. "You can drink it during the day, and you don't have to wear a tie," says the Allied Domecq director of marketing, Hayley Beale.

Some sceptics question the wisdom of such tactics, however. Spending small fortunes promoting brands on television before Christmas can be a waste of money, argues Derek Simonds of the specialist drinks researcher, Cardinal. "There is so much advertising about that people get fogged and brand awareness goes down."

Spirits face such fundamental challenges — notably their ageing consumer profiles — that television can only play a small part in addressing them, Simonds adds. "You can't just whack an ad in and expect things to change."

The key, say marketing experts, is to change the way that spirits are served in pubs. "Spirits are the only product where people turn their back on you as soon as you order one," Simonds says.

United Distillers is responding by putting shiny new lager-like dispensers into trendy bars and employing specially trained bartenders to engage customers in conversation at the same time.

However, starting again at the grass roots will take years to affect the sales of a brand like Bell's. Hence the expensive television campaigns.

NEWS

Teachers angered by Blair attack

■ Tony Blair received a storm of criticism from teachers and Labour leftwingers when he launched his party's most dramatic attack on standards in state education.

Outlining Labour's plans for a "quantum leap" in achievement, Mr Blair claimed that 30 per cent of schools were failing their pupils. "There will be zero tolerance of failure from any government I lead," he said ..... **Pages 1, 9**

Duchess of York's jewellery stolen

■ Police on both sides of the Atlantic were trying to establish how thieves stole £60,000 in jewellery belonging to the Duchess of York from an 18-inch long black holdall as she returned from America. The theft of the diamond necklace and bracelet, a gift from the Queen, was discovered when the Duchess's lady-in-waiting opened the bag ..... **Page 1**

French marches

Thousands of striking workers marched through the streets of France as the Government stuck to its guns in the escalating battle over welfare reform ... **Pages 1, 14**

No charges

Julia Somerville, the ITN newscaster who was arrested and questioned over 28 photographs of a naked child, was told that neither she nor her partner will face charges ..... **Page 1**

Mortgage plan

People who fall into arrears with their mortgages may now have a chance of keeping their homes. The Court of Appeal ruled that they should be allowed to spread the arrears over the remaining period of their mortgage ... **Page 2**

Bogus priest held

A bogus priest accused of conning believers across Europe is facing extradition from Britain ... **Page 3**

Envoy plan rejected

Sir Anthony Parsons, a former British ambassador to the United Nations rejected the idea of the Princess of Wales becoming a roving envoy for Britain ... **Page 5**

West children talk

Life at the home of Frederick and Rosemary West was so corrupting and brutal that the children had little chance of discovering how normal families lived, television viewers will be told tonight ..... **Page 6**

Thornton waits

Sara Thornton, the focus of a campaign highlighting the plight of battered wives, will have to wait until Christmas for a ruling on her case ..... **Page 8**

Christmas campaign

The Christmas campaign against drink-driving features a young man who suffers brain damage and has to be fed ..... **Page 8**

Saudi doubts

Assurances by the Saudi royal court that King Fahd was recovering from "a mild stroke" failed to dampen speculation about who would succeed ..... **Page 11**

Verbal barrage

Peking last week called Chris Patten, the Governor of Hong Kong, "a great dictator"; Lee Teng-hui, President of Taiwan, "a god-like dictator"; and the Dalai Lama a "betrayer" and "dictator of an inhuman serfdom" ..... **Page 12**

Clinton for Bosnia?

President Clinton hopes to pay a Christmas visit to Bosnia-Herzegovina as a symbolic gesture after the dispatch of 20,000 American troops ..... **Page 13**

EU clash

Britain is heading for a clash with the rest of the European Union at the Madrid summit over its refusal to go along with any further weakening of the veto over Brussels decisions or an extension of EU powers ..... **Page 15**

Nero gold found in Oxfordshire field

■ A magnificent hoard of 126 Roman gold coins, including some from the reign of Nero, has been unearthed in an Oxfordshire field by a man learning to use a metal-detector. "This is one of the richest finds of Roman gold ever made in this country," said Roger Bland, a curator at the British Museum. "To find just one gold coin is very unusual" ..... **Page 1**

SIMON IRETON



Children enjoy the first snow of winter at Borough Green, Kent, yesterday as winds from Siberia hit the east of Britain. **Page 1**

BUSINESS

Oil: The Government raised a surprise £500 million from the sale of its remaining shares in BP, the oil giant ..... **Page 25**

Banking: Complaints by small businesses claiming that they have been wrongly advised by their bank when taking out a loan have risen sharply ..... **Page 25**

Power: Britain is exporting electricity to France to support its power supply. The National Grid, which last month came close to imposing power cuts after disruption to supplies, said the service to the UK would not be affected ..... **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 5.5 to 3664.2. Sterling's index rose from 82.6 to 82.8 after a rise from $1.5335 to $1.5403 and from DM2.2058 to DM2.2122 ..... **Page 28**

SPORT

Football: Those impatient for the promotion of Les Ferdinand to the England team may be gratified in the match against Portugal next week after he was included in a squad of 23 ..... **Page 48**

Cricket: The glazed expressions belonged to South Africans who could barely comprehend the innings of Michael Atherton ..... **Page 48**

Rugby: Talks have taken place between rugby union and rugby league about proposed matches between the codes' two leading clubs, Wigan and Bath ..... **Page 48**

Boxing: Naseem Hamed, the World Boxing Organisation featherweight champion, has been invited to appear on the undercard of the bill on which Frank Bruno meets Mike Tyson ..... **Page 41**

ARTS

After Quentin: Since Tarantino burst on the Hollywood scene, the major studios have developed a taste for the ideas of young independent film directors ..... **Page 36**

Gospel truths: Already the winner of Britain's biggest choir competition, the London Adventist Chorale has just released a recording which lifts the art of gospel singing to new heights ..... **Page 38**

Sweet success: With Sharon Sweet outstanding in the title role, and Daniele Gatti electrifying in the pit, the Royal Opera's *Aida* is a musical treat ..... **Page 36**

Shaw thing: Least performed of George Bernard Shaw's major plays, *The Simpleton of the Unexpected Isles* has been sympathetically revived ..... **Page 37**



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **FIRST LADY**
Michael Douglas woos Annette Bening. Geoff Brown on the week's big movie release

■ **THE PRESIDENT**
Roger Scruton on Amitai Etzioni, guru to Bill Clinton and the American middle classes

Saint's alive: *Iain R. Webb on how Marks & Spencer has repackaged itself as a fashion label, but with its good value image intact* ..... **Page 16**

Dying for a smoke: Despite warnings on the packet, the under-25s are rushing to light up ..... **Page 17**

Morning glory: Former editor Mike Hollingsworth on how the PC brigade at the BBC has caused the demise of *Good Morning ... with Anne and Nick* ..... **Page 23**

Cables crossed: The story behind the battle for cable channel Live TV! is to be revealed in a fly-on-the-wall documentary ..... **Page 23**

Make your landmark: Historic buildings are so popular to stay in that there are too few to go round, says Jennai Cox ..... **Page 39**

More and more criminals are paying for their crimes. This is good news especially since a high percentage of violent crimes are committed by repeat offenders. No wonder the violent-crime rates are falling nationwide

— Wall Street Journal

A balanced Budget within seven years is achievable. But only if major compromises can be reached on the mechanics of getting to zero deficits *— Los Angeles Times*

Preview: Londoners try to escape a sweltering summer: *The Lido* (BBC2, 9pm) **Review:** Lynne Truss hails a powerful and intelligent documentary about Aids ... **Page 47**

A for effort

If Labour's proposals are accepted, they could make a big difference. If not, education, Mr Blair's professed "passion", could become an early pitfall ..... **Page 18**

Princess Ambassador

The Princess is an asset: she wishes to perform a "possibly unique role" as an ambassador for this country. She should be helped ..... **Page 18**

Love's Labour's Won

This love poem confirms that there is no accounting for taste in such matters of the heart: a rugged bit of Prescott can be as attractive as Major grey, Ashdown khaki or Blair pale ..... **Page 18**

SIMON JENKINS

This week I shall eat beef. I shall do so not out of sympathy for beef farmers, whose whingeing and lust for subsidy leaves me cold. I will eat beef in contempt for scaremongers and in homage to the god of Reason ..... **Page 18**

JANET DALEY

The proposals are nothing more than pious hopes intended to shame those Labour officials who will again be in control of most education authorities ..... **Page 18**

PETER RIDDELL

In practice, the record of a Labour Government will depend less on its wishes now than on whether it takes office during a boom or slump ..... **Page 10**

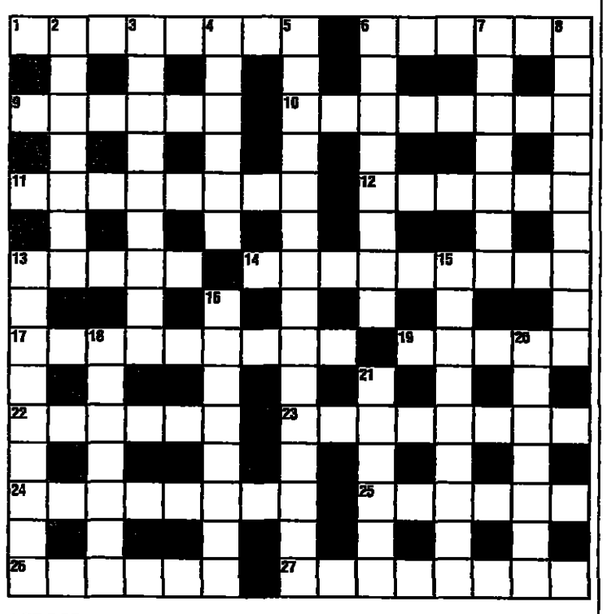
SIMON BARNES

Why were the BBC trying to sell me the Football Association Challenge Cup, when they televised the third-round draw on Monday night? Sport does not need dressing-up in anything. Sport is perfectly good enough naked ..... **Page 42**

Léon Zitrone, French newscaster; **Graham Rose**, gardening correspondent; **Hopper Levett**, cricketer and farmer ..... **Page 21**

Budget cuts to local services; tranquillity in the country; restaurant tipping; overseas aid ..... **Page 19**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,031



ACROSS

1 Prescribe appropriate remedy (3,5).
6 Hard cash needed? Kind, but a bit short (6).
9 City where retired lady drives in the centre (6).
10 Observe without the necessity to be greatly involved (4-4).
11 Watch points when indebted (8).
12 Got to the top, say, with wounded pride (6).
13 Soak with such prices? (5).
14 Decline in county position (9).
17 Mean years in the fifties, perhaps (6,3).
19 Best to get requirements initially in writing (5).
22 Stockholder in Arkansas caught in tailback (6).
23 The first drink transforms a sad meal (5,3).
24 London, for example, can be unfamiliar before 19 (8).
25 This book is arrogant, insulting all historical leaders (6).
26 Guarantee given in English by new firm (6).
27 Cynical philosopher's directions to follow one god, possibly (8).

DOWN

2 Disappear holding information that's urgent (7).
3 Degenerate and awfully rude notes (3,2,4).
4 Shields for soldiers (6).
5 Accepted as present editor, it's assumed (5,3,7).
6 Moving rapidly across the board (8).
7 Break a saucer in smithereens (7).
8 It's advisable to show resource (9).
13 Appearance of frisky lamb in animated scene (9).
15 Put back a piece of furniture in stateroom (9).
16 Tired out on occasion, a director might do this (4,4).
18 Deduces ways to get round the point (7).
20 Recover, left in primitive environment (7).
21 Where to take a chance in love, following first letters from Casanova (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,030

F	R	A	N	K	E	R		C	A	R	G	O	E	S
O		F		E		A		H		E		B		E
P	E	T	R	I		T	R	E	N	D	I	E	S	T
P		E		T		I		C		U		L		T
E	A	R	T	H	M	O	R	K		C	H	I	L	L
R		M				N		T				E		
Y	E	A	S	T		A	M	P	L	I	F	I	E	R
		T		O		L		U		O		N		
U	P	H	O	L	D	E	R	S		N	E	P	A	L
N		E		H				A		O				
H	O	M	E	R		P	E	C	U	L	A	T	O	R
I		E		A		O		H		A		T		I
T	A	R	A	N	T	U	L	A		S	T	E	R	N
C		R		C		N		I		S		N		E
H	A	Y	S	E	E	D		R	E	A	L	T	O	R

Times Two Crossword, page 48

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouca,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code:

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Tiree, Inner Hebrides, and Stornoway, Western Isles, 7C (45F); lowest day max: Wattisham, Suffolk, 1C (34F); highest rainfall: Cranwell, Lincolnshire, 0.24in; highest sunshine: Jersey, 5.1hr.

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Air UK

FORECAST

General: England and Wales will have a day of sunshine and snow flurries. The heaviest showers will be down the eastern side of Britain, where there could be more snow. Further west the showers will be less frequent, and there should be more sunny spells.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will also see sunshine and showers. The best of the sun will be in western Scotland and Northern Ireland, but even here there will be one or two showers. Eastern Scotland will have showers mainly of rain or sleet, but there will be snow on higher ground.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, E England:** snow showers and occasional bright spells. Wind moderate to fresh northeast. Max 2C (36F).

☐ **Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Central N:** spells of sunshine and snow showers. Wind moderate northeast. Max 3C (37F).

☐ **Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland:** sunny spells and isolated showers. Wind moderate to fresh easterly. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland:** rain and sleet showers, with snow over the hills. Wind moderate to fresh easterly. Max 4C (39F).

☐ **Outlook:** continuing cold with snow flurries, which will become lighter and less frequent.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

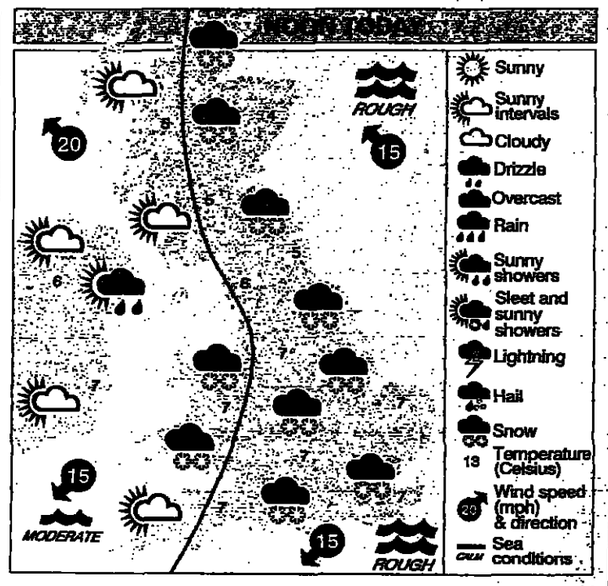
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	0.17	5	41	h
Anglesey	2.8	-	5	41	sn
Aspatria	0.9	-	4	39	sl
Aviemore	-	0.01	3	37	sn
Belfast	-	0.05	5	41	sh
Birmingham	1.8	0.05	2	36	sn
Bognor R	2.6	0.02	3	37	sn
Bournem'th	1.2	0.02	3	37	sn
Bristol	2.7	-	5	41	s
Buxton	0.6	0.13	1	34	sl
Cardiff	1.7	0.01	4	39	sn
Clacton	0.9	-	3	37	sn
Cleethorpes	X				
Colwyn Bay	0.5	-	5	41	c
Cromer	-	0.15	3	37	sn
Doncaster	X				
Dunbar	X				
Eastbourne	0.5	0.02	3	37	sn
Edinburgh	-	0.01	5	41	sh
Eskdalemuir	0.1	0.01	2	36	sn
Exmouth	1.0	0.01	4	39	sn
Falmouth	0.3	-	6	43	c
Fishguard	1.8	-	5	41	c
Folkestone	-	0.05	2	36	sn
Glasgow	-	-	5	41	c
Guernsey	0.7	0.02	5	41	sn
Hastings	X				
Hayling I.	2.1	0.06	3	37	sn
Heme Bay	0.6	0.06	2	36	sn
Hove	2.6	-	3	37	sn
Hunstanton	2.7	0.12	3	37	sn
Ilfracombe	X				
Isle of Man	0.5	-	6	43	c
Jersey	5.1	-	X	X	sn
Kinloss	0.3	-	4	39	c
Leeds	1.7	0.05	4	39	sn
Lerwick	0.2	0.02	4	39	sh
Leuchars	-	0.08	5	41	h
Littlehmptn	2.3	0.01	3	37	sn
Liverpool	2.8	-	4	39	s
London	1.3	-	4	39	sn
Lowestoft	0.7	0.05	2	36	sn
Manchester	1.8	0.02	4	39	sn
Margate	-	0.02	2	36	sn
Minehead	0.3	0.13	4	39	h
Morecambe	1.1	-	5	41	sn
Newcastle	X				
Newquay	4.3	-	5	41	b
Norwich	2.1	0.16	2	36	sn
Nottingham	X				
Oxford	2.4	0.02	3	37	sn
Penzance	0.4	-	5	41	c
Plymouth	X				
Poole	1.8	0.01	3	37	sn
Prestatyn	X	-	5	41	sn
Ross-o-wye	2.8	-	4	39	s
Salcombe	X				
Sandown	2.8	0.05	3	37	sn
Saunton Snd	1.9	-	5	41	b
Scarboro'	1.8	0.04	4	39	b
Shanklin	2.4	0.04	3	37	sn
Shrewsbury	1.8	0.01	4	39	sn
Skegness	1.2	0.15	5	41	sn
Southend	0.6	0.09	6	43	sn
Southport	1.7	-	4	39	b
St Ives	X				
Stornoway	4.3	-	7	45	s
Swanage	2.1	0.02	3	37	sn
Teignmouth	1.5	-	5	41	b
Tenby	X				
Tiree	0.6	-	7	45	c
Torquay	3.5	-	6	43	b
Tynemouth	0.3	0.07	6	43	sh
Valentor	3.2	0.03	4	39	sn
West-s-mare	X				
Weymouth	4.3	-	4	39	sn

ABROAD

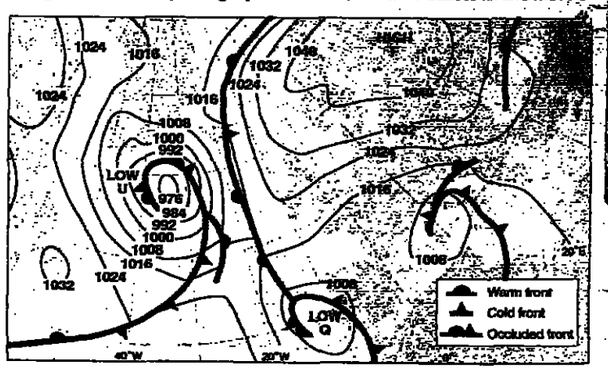
Ajaccio	13	55	f	Cologne	3	37	c	Luxor	23	73	s
Alcudia	17	63	f	Corfu	14	57	c	Madrid	11	52	f
Alex'dria	17	63	f	C'phagn	1	34	c	Majorca	18	64	s
Algiers	17	63	s	Dublin	7	45	d	Malaga	17	63	f
Amst'dm	0	32	s	Dubrovnik	11	52	f	Malta	18	61	s
Athens	15	59	f	Faro	16	61	s	Melb'rne	12	54	c
B Aires	33	91	f	Florence	8	46	f	Mexico C	21	70	s
Bahrain	23	73	s	Frankfurt	1	34	c	Miami	28	82	f
Bangkok	30	86	s	Funchal	19	66	c	Milan	7	45	f
Barbados	28	82	f	Geneva	3	37	c	Montreal	-2	28	sn
Barcelona	14	57	s	Gibraltar	16	61	c	Moscow	-11	12	c
Beirut	19	66	f	Helsinki	-10	14	c	Munich	0	32	c
Belfast	8	46	c	Hong K	21	70	s	N Delhi	20	68	s
Belgrade	1	34	sn	Innsbruck	0	32	c	N York	9	48	s
Berlin	-2	28	sn	Istanbul	10	50	s	Nairobi	26	77	f
Bermuda	22	72	s	Jeddah	32	90	s	Naples	12	54	f
Biarritz	10	50	f	Jo'burg	21	70	f	Nice	11	52	f
Borde'x	11	52	f	Karachi	28	82	s	Oslo	0	32	c
Brussels	2	36	c	L Angels	16	64	s	Paris	3	37	f
Budapst	3	37	c	L Palmas	22	72	f	Peking	3	37	s
Cairo	19	66	c	Le Toquet	4	39	f	Perth	23	73	s
Cape Tn	24	75	s	Lisbon	15	59	f	Prague	-2	28	sn
Ch'church	27	81	s	Locarno	5	41	c	Reykjavik	8	46	f
Chicago	4	39	s	Luxembg	1	34	c	Rhodes	17	63	f
Rio de J	26	79	f						
Riyadh	28	82	s						
Rome	11	52	c						
S Paulo	26	79	c						
Salzburg	-1	30	sn						
Santiago	28	82	s						
Seoul	3	37	s						
Sing'por	26	79	f						
St'kholm	-4	25	f						
Strasb'rg	3	37	c						
Sydney	33	91	s						
Tangier	15	59	c						
Tel Aviv	21	70	f						
Tenerife	23	73	c						
Tokyo	14	57	s						
Toronto	2	36	s						
Tunis	16	61	f						
Valencia	16	61	f						
Vanc'ver	5	41	s						
Venice	8	46	s						
Vienna	0	32	c						
Warsaw	-4	25	c						
Wash'ton	13	55	s						
Zurich	1	34	c						

Temperatures at midday local time Monday. X = not available

WORLD TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: high F will drift slowly SE with little pressure change; low U will deepen slightly and move N; low Q will start to fill and move S



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	0:54	7.08	1:13	6.98	Leith	1:45	5.26	2:08	5.35
Aberdeen	0:27	4.12	0:51	4.19	Liverpool	10:37	8.89	10:54	8.95
Avonmouth	6:27	12.57	6:53	12.60	Lowestoft	8:51	2.41	9:05	2.47
Belfast	10:23	3.43	10:45	3.28	Margate	11:34	4.56	11:54	4.61
Cardiff	6:17	11.67	6:41	11.70	Milford Haven	5:31	5.67	5:52	6.68
Devonport	4:59	5.27	5:17	5.18	Newquay	4:16	6.37	4:35	6.37
Dover	10:22	6.40	10:46	6.43	Oban	4:52	3.77	5.18	3.88
Dublin	11:14	4.08	11:24	3.90	Penzance	4:01	5.21	4:17	5.17
Falmouth	4:21	4.84	4:36	4.81	Portland	5:53	2.07	6:11	1.92
Glasgow	11:59	4.65	--	--	Portsmouth	10:40	4.62	11:04	4.59
Harwich	11.15	3.84	11:36	3.92	Shoreham	10:45	6.01	11:09	5.94
Holyhead	9:45	5.38	9:57	5.29	Southampton	10:08	4.47	10:30	4.28
Hull	5:33	6.98	5:58	7.10	Swansea	5:36	9.03	5:56	9.06
Ilfracombe	5.14	8.87	5:36	8.86	Tees	2:51	5.02	3:15	5.06
King's Lynn	5:34	5.32	5.54	8.42	W'ton-on-Nze	11:13	3.97	11:34	4.04

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7.50 am
Sun sets: 3.53 pm
Moon sets 6.53 pm
Moon rises 3.57 pm
Full moon tomorrow

London 3.53 pm to 7.51 am
Bristol 4.03 pm to 8.01 am
Edinburgh 3.41 pm to 8.28 am
Manchester 3.51 pm to 8.10 am
Penzance 4.21 pm to 8.08 am

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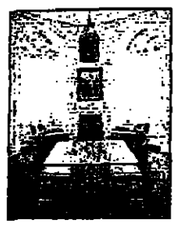
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ARTS 36-38

Is this the best choir in Britain?



HOMES 39

Living history — the threat to our historic gems



SPORT 41-48

FA Cup's lustre tarnished by hard sell on TV

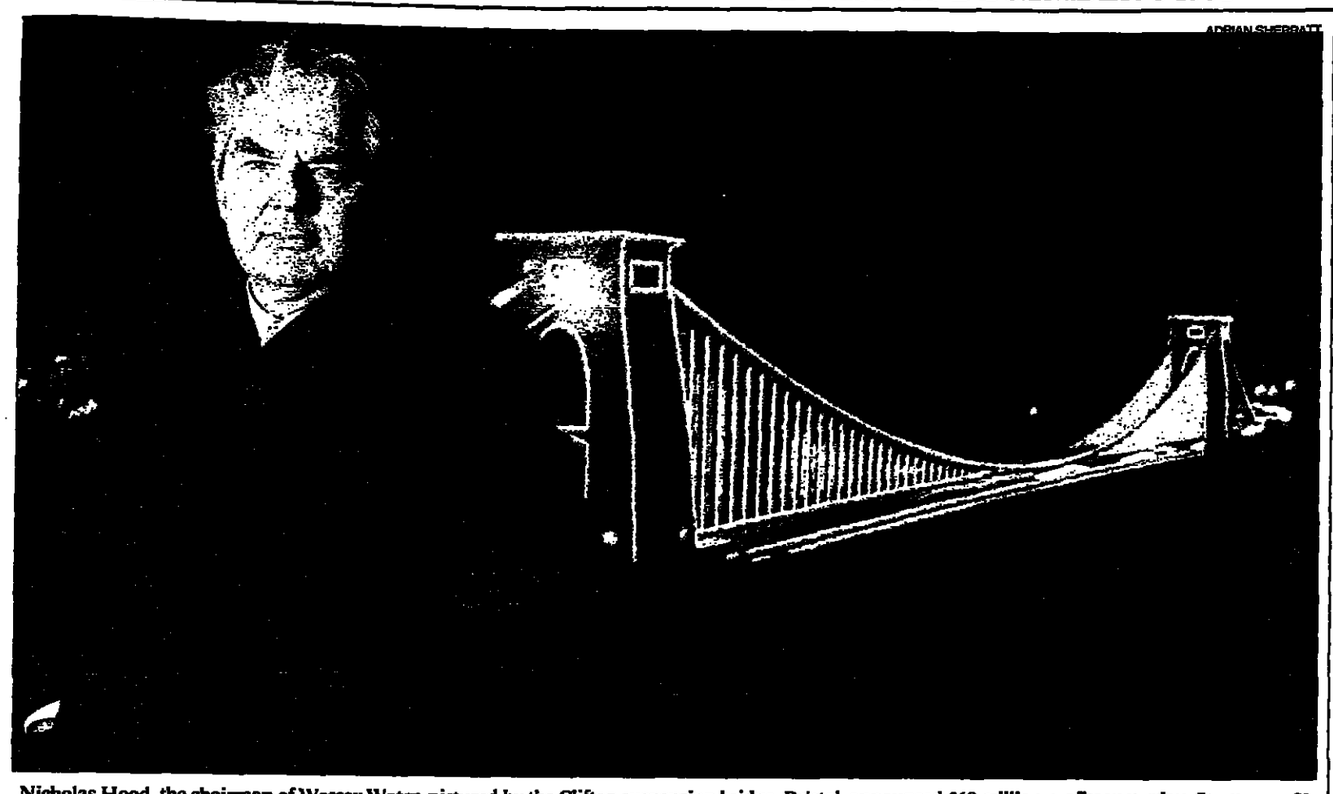
25

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 46,47

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 6 1995



ADRIAN SHERRATT

Nicholas Hood, the chairman of Wessex Water, pictured by the Clifton suspension bridge, Bristol, announced £68 million profits yesterday. Story, page 31

BP stake sale raises £513m for Treasury

BY CARL MORTISHED

THE Government raised £513 million yesterday by selling its remaining interest in British Petroleum.

In a huge stock market placing, SBC Warburg, the Swiss-owned investment bank, placed 101 million BP shares at 513p. Half went to UK and continental investors with the balance going to America.

Considered to be one of the largest bought deals in the London market, the transaction involved the purchase of the shares from HM Treasury at 508p and the onward sale to investors at a 5p premium.

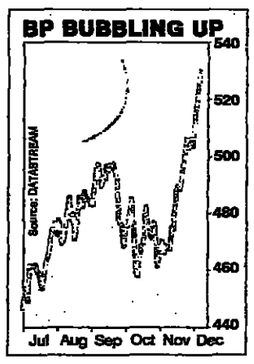
The transaction, which involved the change of ownership of 1.87 per cent of the oil company, is being seen as a test of strength for SBC Warburg, which has suffered from staff defections and bad publicity since the merchant bank was taken over by Swiss Bank Corporation. Yesterday's placing failed to bruise the BP share price, which closed at 517p, a fall of 14p on the previous day's close.

The spread between buying and selling price should leave the investment bank with a profit of more than £5 million for a day's risk and effort. However, insiders at the investment bank admit that neither Warburg nor its new parent, SBC, would have been capable of handling the job in their separate incarnations, the former lacking the balance sheet to absorb a £500 million share stake and the latter lacking the distribution muscle.

The Government's decision to sell the BP stake was made in September and NM Rothschild, the merchant bank, was appointed to conduct an auction to investment banks.

In addition to SBC Warburg, it is believed that BZW, NatWest Markets and Merrill Lynch made bids the shares.

The BP shares form the largest part of a portfolio of privatisation shares worth around £800 million. In due course, Rothschild is expected to auction the lot, including a 2.9 per cent shareholding in BAA, worth about £140 million, and a 14 per cent interest in Mersey Docks & Harbour company, worth some £55 million. Small shareholdings in the privatised water and electricity companies make up a large part of the list, including 2 per cent stakes in National Power and PowerGen.



Rothschild has played a leading role in the past acting for the Government in privatisations and counts Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor, and John Wakeham, the former Energy Secretary as non-executive directors. Mr Lamont was also a Treasury Minister at the time of the Government's big sale of BP shares in 1987.

Fees and commissions for privatisation work have not been as lucrative a source of business in recent years but Rothschilds, which remains one of the few independent British merchant banks, is expected to draw comfort from obtaining a prominent role in tidying up the tail-end of the privatisation process.

Although mooted as early as September, the BP sale was held over until after the Budget and the recent surge in the price to over £5 persuaded Rothschilds to push ahead with the auction.

This is only the second time the Government has sold a residual parcel of shares in a privatised company to a securities house as a "bought deal" for selling on in the stock market. In July 1990, the Treasury raised £120 million by selling 54 million shares in British Gas.

Two thirds of the BP shares sold yesterday were retained for loyalty bonuses to private investors and 39 million bought back in partly paid form during the offer to private investors by the Bank of England after the 1987 stock market crash.

Pennington, page 27

Ombudsman sees sharp rise in bank loan cases

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

COMPLAINTS against banks by small businesses claiming they have been wrongly advised have risen sharply, Laurence Sherman, the Banking Ombudsman said yesterday. He added that mortgages are the most common source of dissatisfaction with banks, accounting for 15 per cent of 717 formal complaints.

The rise in complaints from small businesses is believed to be a direct result of a landmark court case in which Julia Verity and Richard Spindler, successfully won £77,529 compensation from Lloyds Bank for negligent advice. Mr Shurman said the High Court case two months ago had not established new law or practice but had "focused the banks' minds on what they should or should not do.

"I believe there is a move among the banks to provide customers with a letter explaining why they have been recommended such loans. People should take out a loan that suits them and should not be overborrowing. "But there is a lot of work to do before all contracts are rewritten in clear and plain English."

His office said yesterday "scores" of new complaints had followed the September court case. Mr Shurman's annual report, published yesterday, showed compensation payments ordered by his office rose 70 per cent to £910,000 in the year to September 30.

He found against banks in 44 per cent of cases. The lowest sum awarded was £10 and the highest was in two instances was £70,000.

The effect of the Verity-Spindler court case came too late to be included in the report to the year ended September 30. Complaints about cash machines were down to second place at 12 per cent compared with almost 16 per last in 1993-94.

Mr Shurman said banks had been too slow to introduce "smart card" technology and fingerprint identification techniques to combat widespread card fraud. He said they would be held partly responsible for the loss if they had failed to monitor and to detect unusual cash withdrawal patterns when a card was fraudulently used.

Overall, his office investigated 6,273 complaints by customers against banks. This was 16 per cent fewer than the previous year. The number of initial telephone complaints remained roughly the same as 1994 at almost 18,667. The big four banks generated most complaints.

Mr Shurman said: "There have been many improvements by banks, but there needed to be. Plastic card fraud is still a big problem."

The release of the report coincided with a court decision, believed to be the first test case before the civil courts, setting aside a ruling by the Banking Ombudsman against The Royal Bank of Scotland.

The case centred on a former director who had paid two company cheques for £17,000 into his personal account, and then withdrew £10,000 cash. Later that day, the bank was told the company was insolvent and requested to appoint a receiver. It refused to honour the cheques but the Ombudsman had ruled the bank had started the electronic processing of the cheque and had therefore honoured it. The bank appealed against the ruling and went to court.

Pennington, page 27

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3684.2	(-5.5)
Yield	3.92%	
FT-SE A All share	1789.84	(-1.94)
Nikkei	18879.53	(-17.84)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5176.73	(+37.21)
S&P Composite	616.85	(+3.17)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 11/16%*	(5 11/16%)
Long Bond	111 25/32*	(111 21/32)
Yield	6.02%*	(6.03%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6 1/2%	(6 11/16%)
Life long gilt future (Dec)	110 30/32	(110 5/16)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5418*	(1.5326)
London:		
$	1.5421	(1.5361)
DM	2.2150	(2.2097)
FFr	7.6620	(7.6820)
SFr	1.8016	(1.7949)
Yen	156.43	(155.15)
£ Index	82.8	(82.6)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.4370*	(1.4398)
FFr	4.9680*	(4.9938)
SFr	1.1682*	(1.1679)
Yen	101.40*	(101.35)
$ Index	93.8	(93.8)

Tokyo close Yen 101.40

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Feb)	$17.15 ($17.10)

GOLD

London close	$386.75 ($386.15)

* denotes midday trading price

Giveaway

Midlands Electricity unveiled a surprise package of shareholder giveaways yesterday, casting doubt over the group's takeover plans. The company's deal to be taken over by PowerGen has been referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Page 27, Tempus 28

Defensive

The Treasury yesterday defended the Chancellor's optimistic forecast of growth made in the Budget speech and distanced itself from interest rate hopes.

Page 26

Britain exporting power to France

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

BRITAIN has switched from being an importer of electricity from France to an exporter in an effort to help support the French in the face of industrial action there. Enough power to serve a town the size of Oxford is now flowing to France, reversing the normal importation of cheap French electricity.

The National Grid, which last month came dangerously close to imposing power cuts after disruption to supplies, said service to the UK would not be affected. But the increased demand for energy is considerable.

France is being charged daily rates for the 300 megawatts, governed by the electricity pool price. This fluctuates according to demand and at yesterday's pool settings the French would have paid £350,000 for a day's supply.

France normally exports around 2,000 megawatts to Britain. British generators are therefore required to pump out an extra 2,300 megawatts — which includes the 300 megawatts which is going to France — to keep pace with normal supplies. But as winter bites, the demand for electricity is much higher than usual.

PowerGen is operating on full capacity and National Power said it has raised output significantly. The electricity to France is being supplied by the National Grid, which serves power to the 12 regional electricity companies.

Pennington, page 27

MPs urge defence rethink

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government is likely to reject a cross-party call for greater intervention in the defence industry — despite Labour claims that Britain's current approach to defence procurement is weakening the UK's competitiveness.

The influential All-Party Commons Trade and Industry and Defence Select Committees, in their first joint report, yesterday sharply criticised the Government's defence procurement strategy, arguing for a more openly interventionist approach in the key industrial sector of defence. The report was detailed in advance by *The Times* last month.

The Government will not formally respond for two months, but Whitehall officials made it clear that it was likely to reject the call to see defence procurement as central to industrial strategy.

While the MoD believes the involvement and co-operation of the Department of Trade and Industry is important, it sees its key aims in defence procurement as obtaining the best possible equipment for the services while getting the best value for money for the taxpayer. Richard Caborn, the trade and industry committee's former chairman and now Labour's Shadow minister for competitiveness, said the report showed that the Government needed to "rethink" its policy on the defence industry, which was in danger of losing out to US and European competition.

The Government's "market-led approach" was undermining the industry's competitiveness and weakening its research and development base. Mr Claborn said. "Failure to grasp the opportunities for greater European collaboration in defence procurement will lead to an irreversible decline in the UK defence industry and the loss of thousands of jobs."

In their report, the committees said that greater European collaboration was "crucial" to the survival of the UK and other defence industries. It called on the Government to take a more active role in creating a European defence market, and a more active policy to secure fair access for UK defence firms to overseas defence markets.

It recommended a bigger role for the DTI in smaller procurement decisions, and said that the MoD should not be deterred from encouraging further rationalisation among defence contractors.

Pennington, page 27

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NatWest Tower up for sale at £189m

BY ROBERT MILLER

NATWEST Tower, the City's tallest landmark, went on to the property market last night with a freehold price tag of about £189 million.

As part of the bank's marketing strategy to sell the 600ft building, Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, switched on the lights yesterday for the first time since the Bishopsgate bomb blast in April 1993. At one point there were fears that the 42-storey building was so badly damaged that it would have to be demolished. After a refurbishment costing tens of millions of pounds, the Tower, designed by Richard Seifert and officially opened by the Queen in 1981, will no longer house the 2,100 staff who worked there before the bombing.

In the event that there are no serious buyers for the building, NatWest will consider leasing the 317,000 sq ft on the open market. Bradley Baker, a partner at Knight Frank & Rutley's City office, said that rents for landmark buildings such as the Tower could fetch between £35 and £40 per sq ft. On that basis NatWest could expect a conservative rental value of £10 million a year if all the space is occupied.

Among those who might be interested in renting space are foreign banks and other financial institutions looking for a prestigious address.

NatWest said last night that tenants would pay a premium for the top 20 floors of the Tower because they were the most valuable and offered the most panoramic views. If there was sufficient demand from different tenants the bank said it would consider applying to the City Corporation for a change in the terms of occupancy to "mixed use" from straightforward office space. This would allow restaurants, bars, gymnasiums and shops to occupy the building alongside office workers.

David Edmonds, general manager of NatWest's group property, said: "This project and other prestige office redevelopment programmes we are undertaking in the City form a substantial proportion of the group's £200 million development programme."

Treasury opposes City view of growth

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR Treasury officials defended the Chancellor's optimistic growth forecast in the last week's Budget and, in so doing, distanced themselves from growing City speculation of an interest rate cut later this month.

But their positive assessment of economic prospects flew in the face of a lengthy new report from Ernst & Young, its ITEM club of economic forecasters — the only private sector group to use the Treasury's economic model — and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, which said that growth could conceivably be only half of the 3 per cent expected by the Government.

It argued that only by cutting interest rates to between 5 and 5.5 per cent early next year from the current 6.75 per cent would the Government have a chance of hitting its 3 per cent growth forecast — and it is likely that the Bank of England would oppose this.

The report said that growth is likely to be restrained as consumers remain cautious and that an undershoot in growth threatened to leave even the Treasury's higher than expected forecast of a £22.5 billion public sector borrowing requirement next year too optimistic.

This gloomy assessment was in stark contrast to the message from Treasury officials, giving testimony yesterday to the Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee. Colin Mowl, the Treasury's head of economic forecasting, said that City fears that the substantial build-up of stocks in the first three quarters of this year would be reversed in coming months and depress growth sharply.

Mr Mowl said any destocking was likely to be gradual and spread over the next 18 months. He said gross domestic product was likely to grow 0.4 per cent in the fourth quarter, the same as in the third, and then strengthen next year. He rejected the idea of reducing interest rates to hurry up the process of stock adjustment.

Alan Budd, chief economic advisor at the Treasury, rejected the charge that the 3 per cent growth forecast is unrealistic. Asked whether this could be achieved without lower interest rates, he said: "Yes, I do think it's possible." This coincides with the view expressed by the Chancellor in post-Budget briefings that growth would rebound next year, even if rates are not cut.

High street sales show cold comfort

HIGH STREET sales were marginally better in November with cold weather boosting demand for winter clothes and shoes but the British Retail Consortium said that retailing remains fragile (Janet Bush writes).

The BRC published its own figures for retail sales for the first time yesterday. They supplement the existing official monthly figures from the Central Statistical Office and the distributive survey from the Confederation of British Industry. The figures are based on 75 leading retailers accounting for almost half of total sales.

The Retail Sales Monitor showed average sales growth of 3.2 per cent in November compared with the same month last year. This was up on the year on year rise recorded in October of 2.4 per cent.

Andrew Higginson, Chairman of the BRC Economic Affairs Committee, said that the overall market remains fragile.

MICHAEL POWELL



Profit cheers: Christopher Pope, left, chairman of Eldridge Pope, and Jeremy Pope, managing director, celebrating the Dorset company's strong year-end results, outside the Horn tavern by St Paul's Cathedral in central London yesterday.

Pre-tax profits for the year to September 30 rose 34 per cent to £3.54 million on turnover of £55 million, up 31 per cent. About half the turnover increase came from a full-year contribution from Hovetop, whose 22 pubs in Bristol and the Thames Valley were purchased last year. Earnings per share were 13.8p, up 19 per cent. The final dividend will rise from 2.6p to 2.95p, making a total for the year of 4.6p, up 12.2 per cent.

Racal pays £133m for telecoms wing of BR

BY ERIC REGULY

RACAL Electronics is to buy British Rail Telecommunications, the phone and data network, for £133 million and will offer spare system capacity to foreign phone companies.

The acquisition will more than double Racal's network services division, its fast-growing telecoms arm. BRT has about 16,000 kms of phone and data lines passing through nearly every town and city in Britain.

BRT reported a pre-tax profit of £17.6 million on turnover of £174 million in the year to March 31. It has 2,800 employees but redundancies will be minimal, Racal said.

BRT comes with a built-in customer base. Railtrack and the train operating companies, which account for some 85 per cent of BRT's turnover, have contracts that last to about the end of the decade. Racal will try to keep them and recruit other customers to fill the 80 per cent of unused network capacity.

Racal said yesterday that the acquisition will enhance earnings from the onset. The shares gained 6p to 270p.

The acquisition came as Racal reported a pre-tax profit of £30.1 million for the half year to October 13, up 28 per cent, on turnover of £505.6 million, up 5 per cent. Earnings per share were 7.1p against 5.73p and the interim dividend, payable on February 9, rises 20 per cent to 2.1p.

Tempus, page 28

BAe targets Australia growth

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

BRITISH AEROSPACE unveiled plans yesterday for a significant expansion drive into Australia to capture some of the attractive Asia-Pacific defence market.

Robin Southwell, BAe's new chief executive in Australia, says the group intends to increase its Australian turnover from A$100 million (£47.8 million) to more than A$1 billion over the next few months through mergers, acquisitions and partnerships with local companies.

He said: "I can see some tremendous opportunities in the Australian defence industry and British Aerospace is well placed to play a pivotal role in developing them. We are seeking to structure Australia's aerospace and defence capabilities to enable it to enter the world's export markets."

BAe's initial target is to secure a Federal Government tender to supply up to 40 fighter aircraft to the Royal Australian Air Force. The group has been shortlisted with McDonnell Douglas of America and Italy's Macchi for the contract, which analysts estimate is worth about A$1 billion.

Mr Southwell said: "Australia is in the middle of the fastest growing defence sector in the world. When you compare the Western European markets and look at the growth rates in South East Asia, then it is obviously a correct decision to refocus our efforts." He pointed out that Australia's defence exports are A$70 million a year, while Britain's defence-linked exports are around £5 billion.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Sales of endowment policies fall 50%

SALES of endowment policies linked to mortgages or as long-term savings schemes have fallen by almost 50 per cent over the past five years. Adverse publicity about endowment mortgages, falling investment returns and the widely held perception that endowments fail to pay off home loans at their maturity date have contributed to a fall in premiums from £1.3 billion in 1991 to an estimated £742 million this year, according to a report published yesterday by Datamonitor, the strategic management consultancy group.

The *UK Individual Long Term Insurance* survey said the other big factors in the falling popularity of endowment mortgages were the reduced volume of home loans business and the swingeing penalties involved if the policy was surrendered early. The outlook for personal pensions is slightly more rosy, with Datamonitor predicting that sales of such plans will account for 50 per cent of the individual long-term insurance market by the year 2000.

Fed studies bank rules

ALAN GREENSPAN, chairman of America's Federal Reserve Board, and some top House Banking Committee members yesterday proposed to toughen bank regulations in response to the Daiwa Bank scandal. Mr Greenspan and Marge Roukema, a senior Republican, said that stricter audit standards for banks may be necessary to uncover the type of fraudulent US bond trading that caused $1 billion in losses in the New York branch of Daiwa, a leading Japanese bank. "We are considering a number of initiatives that may be implemented at an administrative level, especially with respect to internal and external controls," Mr Greenspan said.

Leigh to shut plants

SHARES in Leigh Interests fell 20p, to 105p, after the waste management company plans to close two of its UK plants as part of a £15 million rationalisation programme triggered by a sharp fall in liquid waste treatment prices. Closing the plants, at Runcorn and Birmingham, will involve 25 job losses. Leigh said that it remained committed to liquid waste treatment and the moves were designed to enhance profits, ensuring that progress in other areas was not "further diluted". In the six months to September 30, profits fell to £4.2 million, from £5.2 million. The dividend is cut to 1.23p, from 2.46p, payable from earnings of 4.4p (5.5p). The company expects a full-year loss.

Chrysler sues Iacocca

CHRYSLER, the American car maker, is suing Lee Iacocca, its former chairman, for giving what it claims was confidential information to Kirk Kerkorian who then launched a bid for the company. Chrysler also claims that Mr Iacocca, who, at the time, was still a consultant to the company, on a salary of $500,000, encouraged Mr Kerkorian to bid. His action, the lawsuit says, breached fiduciary duty. The court action is the latest round in a bitter battle between the company and Mr Kerkorian, who failed to finance a bid for Chrysler last summer and is now seeking sweeping changes to its board.

Pechiney price doubts

SHARES in Pechiney, the French aluminium and packaging group, went on sale yesterday but some financial analysts said the offering was priced too high, even though it was far lower than originally expected. The Government is disposing of most of its 56 per cent stake at Fr187 a share (£24), seeking to raise a minimum of Fr4 billion. The price was at the bottom of the Fr187 to Fr215 range suggested by the Government at the pre-marketing stage. Last summer analysts had expected the issue to be priced at 300 francs a share, which would have raised Fr7-8 billion for the state.

Century valued at £47m

SHARES in Century Inns have been priced at 120p each, with a placing and intermediaries offer later this month capitalising the North East pub operator at £47.4 million. Century was formed in November 1991 after a management team bought a package of 185 pubs from Bass. The company, which now has 316 pubs, will raise £22.7 million to reduce debt. Dealings are due to begin on December 19. The flotation was aborted earlier this year, at a cost of £1 million, when the Office of Fair Trading launched an inquiry into the public house market.



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Distressed names offered help by Lloyd's charity

BY SARAH BAGNALL

HARD-PRESSED Lloyd's names and their families can seek financial help from a new charity which has been set up by Lloyd's of London.

Approval for the Lloyd's Support Fund comes more than two years after the Charity Commissioners rejected Lloyd's request for its hardship fund to be given charitable status. The commissioners turned down the application then because the terms were deemed to be "too generous".

A Lloyd's spokesman said: "The Lloyd's Support Fund is there to help relieve the situation of those in severe financial hardship."

There is no shortage of names in deep financial trouble as the insurance market is forecast to have lost more than £11 billion in the five years from 1988 to 1992.

This equates to an average loss of about £350,000. However, the losses have not fallen evenly and as a result many names have been hit with losses running into millions of pounds.

The Lloyd's Support Fund is not there to help to meet the losses the names have made, but to help to alleviate hardship caused by the losses.

It can be used to help to pay the school fees of children who are at a critical stage of their education or to offer assistance with the payment of medical expenses.

The fund is also available to help names to buy basic essentials, such as a television licence, or to carry out basic repairs and maintenance, such as a washing machine breaking down.

Originally Lloyd's was seeking contributions from the market of £50 million but the money dried up when Lloyd's failed to win charitable status. As a result the fund only currently comprises £607,000, which has lain untouched since 1993.

Requests to the Lloyd's Support Fund for financial help will be assessed by the fund's three trustees.

The trustees are Viscount Chelmsford, a former director of Willis Corroon, David Acland, supervisory director of Barclays Private Banking, and Sir Hugh Bidwell, a director of Rothschild Asset Management.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.17	2.01
Austria Sch	16.57	15.07
Belgium Fr	48.44	44.14
Canada $	2.204	2.044
Cyprus Cyp£	0.741	0.668
Denmark Kr	9.18	8.38
Finland Mkk	7.16	6.51
France Fr	8.09	7.44
Germany Dm	2.37	2.16
Greece Dr	385.00	360.00
Hong Kong $	12.51	11.51
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1300	4.4800
Italy Lira	2562.00	2407.00
Japan Yen	168.70	153.70
Malta	0.582	0.537
Netherlds Gld	2.630	2.400
New Zealand $	2.51	2.29
Norway Kr	10.33	9.53
Portugal Esc	243.50	225.00
S Africa Rd	nat.	5.37
Spain Pta	196.00	183.00
Sweden Kr	10.70	9.90
Switzerland Fr	1.93	1.75
Turkey Lira	refer	60673.0
USA $	1.631	1.501

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

TBI bids for Molyneux

TBI, the property group that owns Cardiff airport, has made a £43 million share offer for Molyneux Estates, the quoted property company which owns the Overgate shopping centre in Dundee. TBI is also raising £30 million in a rights issue priced at 50p per share.

The all-paper offer, which has been recommended by the board of Molyneux, is based on 1.721 TBI shares for every 1,000 of Molyneux and values each Molyneux share at 95.3p.

Shareholders with 33.8 per cent of Molyneux have agreed to accept. The offer will give TBI a rent roll of £19 million and property assets of £229 million, excluding the airport.

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☐ MPs call for more active government stance ☐ BP sale heralds further shares clearout ☐ Triple blow for financial services

Defence of the realm

☐ THE Sir Humphreys at the Defence Ministry are already preparing a dusty return salvo to the call from two Commons committees for a new strategy for Britain's defence industry.

The MPs, in driving for a much more interventionist stance, are implicitly rejecting the MoD's market-driven approach, and the MoD knows it. But all the evidence is that the MoD's line is quite inadequate in today's defence industry.

Some might suggest that the twin committees' recommendations for a clear strategy are largely unnecessary, because the UK already has an integrated industrial defence policy in the shape of Lord Weinstock.

But while GEC's boss is certainly hugely influential, his expansionist ambitions are not enough. As the committees' report makes clear, defence is a vital component of Britain's shrunken manufacturing base, accounting for about 6 per cent of all manufacturing output. A total of £5 billion in exports annually comes second only to the US in world defence output, and the industry alone employs 7 per cent of the UK's manufacturing workforce.

More significantly, defence is not a market that can be left solely to market forces, the normal instinct of the Conservatives, since the Government itself is such a substantial part of and player in the market. As the committees put it: "Governments are the main purchasers, and determine the market in which companies operate."

Whitehall — and especially the MoD — takes the comforting and complacent line that Britain's defence industry is one of the best in the world, etc, etc. While the UK's defence manufacturers would not argue overmuch with that, they do believe that their gains have been won without strategic assistance from the Government, which could have made the industry's performance even better.

The defence companies accept that the end of the Cold War has thawed out a little of the MoD's frostiness on procurement and what they see as a near-overt hostility towards UK manufacturers, but they do not think the process has gone far enough.

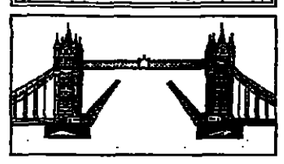
The recommendations of the two committees — both of them, please note, with Conservative majorities — are not earthshakingly radical. They are not suggesting a huge *volte-face* by the MoD, even though some Tory backwoodsmen may see itthus. They mainly want to bring the Government's attitude on the key issue of defence procurement into line with stated government policy on Britain's industrial competitiveness — as laid down by one Michael Heseltine, now Deputy Prime Minister but formerly a Secretary of State for Defence.

The conservatives in the MoD would do well to listen to the Conservatives on the two committees, and indeed their Labour members — and to the Conservative most strongly committed to the economic competitiveness of the UK.

The Treasury's lumber room

☐ AS aficionados of the Antiques Roadshow know, it is amazing how much the contents of the attic can be worth, unearthed and polished up for sale. The Treasury has been having a largely unnoticed clear-out of its financial lumber room, and among all the broken settees and albums of faded photos it has

PENNINGTON



come across half a billion quid's worth of BP shares.

There is more to come — £150 million of BAA, for a start, another £100 million of the various water companies, some holdings from those few electricity stocks as yet unbid for and tiny chunks of such as British Gas, Airways and Steel.

In all, another £800 million will be traded out over the next 18 months or so, the residue of various privatisations stretching back to the early years of the Thatcher government.

The BP stake was easily the largest single holding because of the disasters surrounding the share sale in 1987 that coincided with the market crash. The Government has always held back a few shares from state sell-offs to satisfy demand for loyalty bonuses to private investors willing to stay in for the long run, and much of the Treasury lumber comes from such schemes, now expired for some years.

The residual holding in BP was large for two reasons. The sell-off campaign's slogan, Be a Part of It, had a hollow ring once share prices were collapsing, and very few Sids were in the event prepared to Have Anything to Do With It, so there was no great need to issue bonus shares. Meanwhile, in the aftermath to the sale the Bank of England was forced to stand in the market and offer to buy the shares at a floor price, although acceptances were restricted because of the rival and higher offer from the Kuwaiti Investment Office.

Understandably, neither the Treasury nor Rothschilds, which is handling the sales, is going to say just when the remaining shares will be offloaded. But that 18-month time-span has a strangely familiar ring to it. The sales should be completed, to the benefit of the public sector borrowing requirement, by spring 1997 — or the last possible date for the next election. Note to householders: always clean out the attic before moving house.

Twilight of the banks

☐ OF ALL the industries that have fallen in the public esteem — one thinks of estate agents, of politicians, even of Her Majesty's loyal press corps — few have fallen faster and further than the high street banks.

Time was when a bank was a temple of marbled prudence and its manager a forbidding, pinstriped pillar of rectitude. These days many marbled halls have been sold to the brewers for theme pubs. The local bank has been made over by a bow-tied image consultant to look like an advertising agency, and the manager is known to all as Dave or Wendy.

He or she knows precious little about lending, a point made clear by the Banking Ombudsman yesterday. Mortgage lenders receive all of three months training before they are tossed into the shark pool, he has said, rather than the seven years that would once have been needed.

The Ombudsman's findings are part of a triple whammy this week against the financial services industry. On Monday the National Consumer Council claimed banks had lost their personal touch, competing like mad for new customers but ignoring their needs as soon as they are signed up.

Tomorrow *Which* magazine will publish its own report on investment advice, and it will not be a favourable one. What the three have in common is that they all focus on the results of over-exuberant expansion. It is probably too late for the banks. But there is a lesson here for those more traditional building societies now contemplating ambitious conversions.

Grid locked

☐ THE National Grid is now sending good, British electricity down the line across the Channel to strike-plagued France, in a reverse of the usual order of things, which has had us importing cheap French power. This is a truly historic moment in the annals of cross-Channel trade. It is the first time the grossly overpaid management of the Grid have ever done anything remotely entrepreneurial.

Giveaways by Midlands increase merger doubts

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

MIDLANDS ELECTRICITY yesterday threw into further doubt plans for a merger with PowerGen when it unveiled a surprise package of shareholder giveaways, including a £200 million special dividend.

Midlands repeated its disappointment at the referral last month by Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, of the recommended bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Committee. But the package of giveaways was reminiscent of steps taken by other regional electricity companies to defend themselves against predators.

The package, which comprises a £1 a share special dividend, a proposed 24.4 per cent increase for the full-year dividend and a commitment to future 6 per cent a year real dividend growth until March 2000, has been assembled without reference to PowerGen, although it knew Midlands wanted to offer a special dividend.

The giveaways could be seen as a sign that Midlands has given up hope that the MMC will sanction a merger, or that it is protecting itself from other potential bidders pending resolution of the inquiry. The MMC has a deadline of March 22, although it could rule earlier on the Midlands/PowerGen proposal along with that of National Power for Southern Electric. It could choose to make a speedier decision to eliminate uncertainty before the British Energy sell-off, due to commence next spring.

Midlands, which also yesterday announced a two-for-one share split to improve the marketability of its equity, said it was preparing a strong representation to the MMC and said it regretted not having had an opportunity to discuss areas of concern with the Office of Fair Trading before it made its recommendation to the Department of Trade and Industry.

Mike Hughes, chief executive, said: "The referral was a complete surprise when everyone was expecting it to be waved through. We suspect that the OFT couldn't make up its mind."

But if the MMC does approve the takeover of Midlands by PowerGen, new price negotiations will come at a time when takeover activity in electricity is even more heated that in the summer when PowerGen made its move. It is also a market which has been changed by the flotation of the National Grid in which Midlands has a 9.2 stake. Bryan Townsend, chairman, said: "The figure agreed then is now irrelevant."

Pre-tax profits for the six months to the end of September fell to £92.7 million (£102.4 million). The interim dividend, payable March 25, was raised 3L7 per cent to 12.25p.

Tempus, page 28

BTR shares fall after trading warning

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

SHARES in BTR slipped 14½p, to 319½p, after the company gave warning that second-half profits will be below expectations.

BTR blamed weak performances by its Australian construction, European and North American automotive and Taiwanese polymer interests, although it added that most of its businesses had so far increased profits over last year. The City downgraded profit forecasts for the year by 5 per cent, to £1.44 billion.

In its third-quarter trading statement, BTR said that the slowdown in the American economy this year has led to a fall in orders in the automotive sector and a weak performance from its commercial interiors division. In Australia a slowing in the construction sector resulted in orders running below expectations at Nylex, and the commercial interiors market also remains weak.

The automotive and construction divisions also struggled in Europe, although, in the United Kingdom, the automotive, industrial manufacturing and construction subsidiaries reported record profits.

Tempus, page 28

Troubled glazing firm forced to cut dividend

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

ANGLIAN GROUP, the beleaguered double-glazing company, is cutting its interim dividend to 3p from 4.1p after harsh trading conditions, severe competition and provisions led to a slump in first-half profits.

The company, which had issued a profits warning, saw pre-tax profits tumble to £4.5 million in the six months to September 30, against £10.1 million last time. Turnover, boosted by acquisition, rose to £98 million (£89.4 million). The profits decline was fuelled by margin pressures, a sluggish housing market and the hot weather, which saw people shy away from insulating homes, on top of £3 million of costs for discontinued businesses following the closure of Midland Extrusions, one of the group's BKL businesses.

Sir Colin Barker, presenting his last set of results before retirement, said that second-half results should improve thanks to renegotiated raw material price increases, while cost-cutting programmes should also have some impact, although their main effect will not be felt until next year.

Earnings fell to 3.5p (7.9p) a share.

SUSYE GREENWOOD



Barrie Stephens, left, and Allen Yurko, Siebe managing director, yesterday

Progress of US subsidiary helps Siebe to rise 20%

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

STRONG organic growth and a record order book lifted Siebe, the engineering group, to a 20.7 per cent advance in first-half profits.

Improved margins helped pre-tax profits to rise to £144.2 million in the six months to September 30, from £119.5 million last time, as turnover, boosted by acquisitions, grew by 18.6 per cent, to £1.2 billion.

The control systems division was the star performer, with particularly good profits growth by Foxboro, the US subsidiary, after strong orders and improved margins.

The temperature and appliance controls division turned in record profits and sales in spite of slowing US demand and destocking.

Barrie Stephens, Siebe chairman, said: "These results demonstrate a very solid performance." Investment and restructuring in the diversified products division was now bringing higher sales and profits.

Siebe's American businesses were affected by a reduced housebuilding programme and a cut in vehicle production. However, Mr Stephens said the North American market had shown signs of improvement.

He said: "The group's strategy is to invest in new products, which, together with improvements in manufacturing efficiency, quality and lower costs, have resulted in market share gains."

Mr Stephens added that the period had witnessed an "excellent" order intake, up 17.3 per cent. "Confidence remains high for a strong second half," he said.

An interim dividend of 4.44p (4.03p) is due on April 10, from earnings per share up 18.5 per cent to 19.2p (16.2p). The shares rose 29p, to 768p.

Tempus, page 28

Cazenove joins Forte's team

BY ERIC REGULY

FORTE, the hotels and restaurants group under takeover threat from Granada, has added Cazenove, the broker, to the list of strong City names in its camp. It also announced it would build a Meridien hotel in Manchester.

Cazenove joins UBS on Forte's team of brokers. The company revealed this week that it had hired JP Morgan, the American bank, to act as financial adviser, along with Morgan Stanley, the Wall Street investment firm, and London's SBC Warburg. Granada has just Lazard Brothers.

How much work each of the brokers and advisers is doing is not known. Companies on the acquisition trail or mounting a defence often go on a City hiring spree simply to prevent their adversaries from appointing them themselves.

Roberto Mendoza, JP Morgan's vice-chairman, is said to be working closely with Sir Rocco Forte, chairman. The Forte group's defence document, which will reveal more details on its plan to split the company into separate hotel and restaurant businesses, will be published on Friday.

The Meridien hotel in Manchester will be the luxury chain's tenth and the first in Britain outside London. The 300-bedroom property, whose development costs are estimated at £30 million, will open in 1988. The Meridien chain was bought by Forte a year ago for £217 million.

NIE puts £10m of profits on ice

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

IN THE FACE of complaints by MPs over its profits and before next year's regulatory review, Northern Ireland Electricity yesterday said it had put on ice more than £10 million in unrecovered profit in an effort to smooth its profit line.

The company, which is governed separately by a Northern Ireland electricity regulator, was condemned recently by the Northern Ireland Affairs Select Committee for "making too much profit" from its regulated businesses. Electricity costs more in Northern Ireland than in the rest of the UK. But the company, which was privatised after the Recs in England and Wales, blames the higher cost of power in the province.

Patrick Haren, chief executive, said: "We are sensitive to the issue of tariffs and are seeking to bring costs down."

Postponing the recovery of £10.1 million in allowable costs suppressed operating profits for the six months to the end of September to £45.9 million, a rise of 7.5 per cent. Inclusion of the set-aside would make for an operating profits increase of 15.2 per cent. Northern Ireland also said it had lost several commercial companies to competition. Eastern, Manweb and Northern compete in second-tier supply in the province, although Manweb is not yet active. Overall loss of revenue from the defections came to £700,000.

The interim dividend, payable March 29, was raised 35 per cent to 5p. The company's dividend payment burden rose just 9.4 per cent however after it completed a buyback of shares in the summer.

The only thing Siebe does by halves. Its interim results.

Interim results for the six months ended 30 September, 1995	6 months to 30.9.94	
Turnover	£1,012.1m	+18.6%
Profit before tax	£119.5m	+20.7%
Earnings per share	16.2p	+18.5%
Dividend per share	4.03p	+9.4%

Temperature and Appliance Controls · Control Systems · Compressed Air · Fluid Systems · Specialist Equipment · North Safety Products

"These results demonstrate a very solid performance by the Group for the past six months and also show that we are on track to meet our planned growth targets. Our two Control Divisions have reported record levels of sales and operating profits and the investment and restructuring at Diversified Products is now delivering increased sales and profits particularly at CompAir and Fluid Systems. With the order book already standing at a record £770 million, prospects for the Group are most encouraging and confidence remains high for a strong second half." **Barrie Stephens, Chairman.**

SIEBE THE ENGINEER. HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE.

Siebe plc, Saxon House, 2-4 Victoria Street, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1EN, England.

STOCK MARKET  MICHAEL CLARK

Bass could be winners in Ladbroke stakes

THE message received from City tick-tacks last night claimed that Ladbroke, the hotels and leisure group, is putting its betting chain operation up for sale.

The hand signals seem to be saying that Ladbroke may be prepared to sell it to Bass, the brewer, which also owns the Joe Coral chain of betting shops. Brokers say Ladbroke's new management has become increasingly disenchanted with the turf and wants to move into other areas. The introduction of Sunday racing has increased the cost base and provided little real return. It has also had to contend with increased competition from the National Lottery.

There has been speculation for some time that the group will eventually buy the Hilton Hotel chain in the US. Earlier this week there were reports that it had talked to N Brown, which is also bidding with Iceland for the Littlewoods empire, in case its offer for the parent company is accepted.

Selling the best-known betting chain in the business may be one way of providing the necessary finance for such a move. Recent reports have suggested that Bass is ready to bid for Ladbroke, lock, stock and barrel, but this may have been prompted by the fact that Bass is unveiling full-year figures later today. **Bass** ended at 669p, down 5p, and **Ladbroke** 157½, down 1½p.

The rest of the equity market saw an early lead of almost 14 points, inspired by another record-breaking run over on Wall Street, quickly wiped out. The placing by the Treasury of a large chunk of shares in BP helped to drag the rest of the market lower.

SBC Warburg, the broker charged with placing the 101 million shares with various institutions, must have been pleased with its day's work. The deal is estimated to have earnt the broker £5 million. The shares were bought at 509p after a competitive tender and sold on at 514p. **BP** finished the day 14p lower at 517p with a total of 187 million shares traded.

Another strong start to trading on Wall Street provided the impetus for the London market to close above its worst of the day.

After falling 18 points, the FT-SE 100 index recovered its poise to reduce the deficit to just 5.5 at 3,664.2. The BP placing helped to boost the number of shares traded to 882 million.



Ladbrokes finished down 1½p on rumours of its sale

British Aerospace came under early selling pressure, with the price sliding 17p to 800p as several bearish stories began doing the rounds. There are worries that the group's contract to supply Saudi Arabia with the Tornado fighter has been thrown into doubt by King Fahd's ill-health.

There has also been talk that at least one broker has been scaling down its expectations of the group's stake in Orange, the mobile telephone network it owns jointly with Hutchison Whampoa.

There has been speculation that Orange will be eventually floated off with a value of about £1 billion, equivalent to 100p a share to British Aerospace. By the close, 4.15 million shares had been traded.

BTR touched 319p before ending the session 14p down at 320p after warning the City that profits for 1995 will fall short of expectations.

Brokers say the biggest setback for the group has been at its Taiwan polymer operation. David Ireland, analyst at ABN Amro Hoare Govett, has trimmed his forecast by 5 per cent to £1.4 billion. By the close of business almost 31 million shares had changed hands.

Confirmation that **Racal Electronics** is to pay almost £133 million for British Rail's telecommunications business cheered the City and lifted the shares 7p to 277p.

The move is expected to provide big savings for the group, which pays out large sums each year to use air time provided by the other telecom companies. The acquisition provides a new arm to Racal's operations, with turnover in excess of £300 million a year.

The announcement also coincided with half-year figures from Racal showing pre-tax profits up from £22.5 million to £30.1 million, helped by an £8.2 million contribution from its 22.5 per cent stake in Camelot.

The market also gave a warm response to half-year figures from Siebe, after the industrial holding company revealed a 21 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £144.2 million. Brokers took the view there was nothing very dramatic in the figures.

Allied Colloids shaded 2p to 125p on news of the downturn in interim profits. Brokers take the view that long-term prospects are encouraging, even though raw material costs will take some time to recoup. In the meantime, Allied Colloids is continuing to reduce costs. At least one broker has cut his forecast for the full year.

A strong contribution from its waste management arm and a healthy increase in the dividend helped **Wessex Water** to weigh in with pre-tax profits at the top end of expectations. Brokers were also impressed by the group's positive cash flow. The shares closed 4p cheaper at 336p.

Molyneux Estates, the property developer, jumped 11p to 91p after agreeing terms of an all-share offer from TBI worth £45.4 million. TBI slipped 2p to 55p.

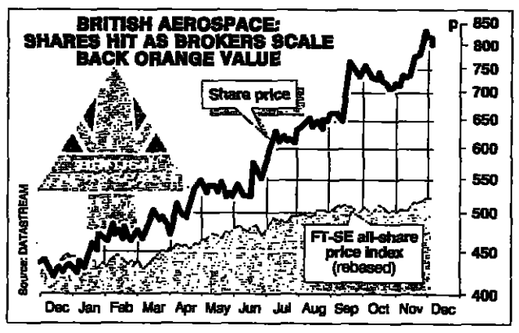
□ **GILT-EDGED**: Prices edged higher in early trading supported by a firmer pound on the foreign exchange and stronger European bonds markets.

Demand remained at a low ebb, with investors anxiously awaiting the outcome of today's £3 billion auction. Brokers expect the issue to be comfortably oversubscribed. In the futures pit, the March series of the Long Gilt rose £11/32 to £110 1/16 in moderate trading.

In longs, Treasury 8¾ per cent 2017 was £17/32 higher at £110 7/32, while in mediums Treasury 8½ per cent 2005 rose £9/32 to £107 1/16.

□ **NEW YORK**: Early profit-taking gave way to a rally on Wall Street and by midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 37.21 points higher at 5,176.73.

Cookson Group firmed 2p to 309p reflecting a positive outcome to a dinner on Monday between the company and selected fund managers arranged by Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker. The group is firing on all cylinders. Profit margins have expanded to 11 per cent and are on target for 15 per cent in the next three years.



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 5176.73 (+37.21)
S&P Composite 616.85 (+3.17)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 18879.53 (−17.84)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 9975.37 (+34.74)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 481.86 (+3.98)

Sydney:
AO 2203.1 (+0.3)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2260.99 (+8.83)

Singapore:
Straits 2168.48 (+3.88)

Brussels:
General 8105.05 (+9.05)

Paris:
CAC-40 1814.87 (+40.01)

Zurich:
SRA Gen 705.10 (−2.60)

London:

FT 30	2651.1 (+9.5)
FT 100	3664.2 (+5.5)
FT-SE Mid 250	3969.3 (+0.2)
FT-SE-A 350	1815.8 (−2.1)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1452.97 (+6.95)
FT A All-Share	1789.84 (−1.94)
FT Non Financials	1890.95 (−2.96)
FT Fixed Interest	114.06 (−0.01)
FT Govt Secs	95.69 (+0.34)
Bargains	31427
SEAQ Volume	882.5m
USM (Datastrm)	191.49 (+0.13)
US$	1.5403 (+0.0068)
German Mark	2.3122 (+0.0064)
Exchange Index	82.8 (+0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.1796
£:SDR	1.0320
RPI 149.8 Oct (3.2%) Jan 1987=100	
RPIX 148.7 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1987=100	

RECENT ISSUES

Abtrust Hi Inc (100)	98	...
Arlon Props	9	...
BZW Equit Tesco	302	+ 1
Benfield & Rea	103	...
CMG (290)	346	+ 2
Cash Converters Intl	28	...
Celebrated Group	19	...
Cortworth (150)	155	...
Cox Insurance	110	...
David Glass (60)	66	...
East Surrey NV	448	...
Fins Tech Tst (100)	100	...
Gardner (L)	143	...
Heritage Baths (125)	173	...
Jasmin	95	...
London Town	80	...
Martin Currie Jp	94	...
Martin Currie Jp Wts	31	...
Megalomedia	83	...
Peptide (200)	240	− 2
Revelation Picc	100	...
Schroder Asia Pc	99½	...
Tom Cobleigh	214	− 3
Trocadero	45	...
Vero Group	264	− 7

RIGHTS ISSUES

Allied Leisure n/p (34)	7	...
Cordiant n/p (60)	27	− 2½
Frport Leis n/p (100)	12	...
Mayborn n/p (210)	43	+ 4
Pilkington n/p (155)	41	...
Roxspur n/p (3)	¼	...
Sunset & Vine n/p (97)	7	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Acorn Comp	192p (+44p)
Sage Gp	312p (+37p)
Phonelink	229p (+20p)
Siebe	768p (+29p)
Celltech	600p (+22p)

FALLS:

Leigh	105p (-20p)
MAID	289p (-10p)
Psion	835p (-25p)
Church	368p (-10p)
Standard Chart	604p (-10p)
Scot & New	607p (-10p)
Royal	392p (-6p)

Closing Prices Page 30

TEMPUS

Is Racal on right track?

TELECOMS capacity has become a commodity. New networks are being built and old ones are being expanded and upgraded to handle services, such as interactive TV and video-conferencing, that gobble up capacity. As more strands are added to the web, the cost to the user falls.

Against this backdrop, it seems odd that Racal Electronics went in hot pursuit of the telecommunications arm of British Rail. Racal paid £133 million for the company, at least one third more than optimistic estimates of its value.

Racal is buying a business that is not alone in the market. It competes with increasingly sophisticated networks operated by British Telecom, Mercury and Energis, all of which are desperate to attract paying traffic to offset enormous fixed costs. The buyers' market has already made life miserable for two-year-old Energis.

So what has propelled Racal into such a crowded market? Unlike Energis, Racal is inheriting customers. About 85 per cent of BRT's £174 million in revenues come from Railtrack, train operating companies and the like, meaning that Racal will get off to a flying start. The shares went up yesterday on assurances that BRT would enhance earnings from day one.

The challenge will come when these contracts begin to expire towards the end of the decade. Railtrack will no longer be a captive customer and will be free to shop elsewhere for network services. Racal, therefore, needs to move quickly to find new customers on the assumption that its anchor client chooses a cheaper network provider.

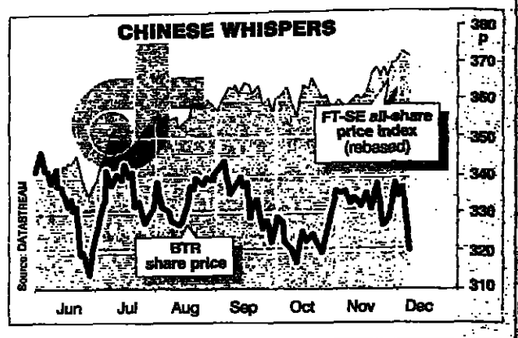
BTR

THERE is a technical reason for the underperformance of BTR shares over the past six months but yesterday — in its habitually clumsy way — BTR introduced more substantial concerns causing the shares to fall further.

Investors have been selling BTR and buying shares in Nylex. The conglomerate is buying in the minority stake in its Australian listed arm and Nylex is seen as a cheap way into BTR.

The reaction to yesterday's profit warning suggests a bolt from the blue but a close look at BTR's commentary suggests that much of the information should have been in the market. Investors will hardly be shocked by weakness in the Australian housebuilding industry and comments about destocking and a slowdown in the US automotive sector. The villain in this tale is the Taiwanese plastics plant which has been hit by a dramatic fall in the price of polystyrene.

The collapse in the price is a matter of record and it is curious that BTR chose not to warn the market about Taiwan at the time of September's interim when cautious remarks were duly made about Australia and the US automotive sector. Hopefully, when the new man is fully installed at BTR's helm, investors will be allowed extra helpings of information. Fundamentally BTR is looking cheap, even after downgrades of some £80 million on full year profits.



Midlands Elec

CHRISTMAS came early yesterday for investors in Midlands Electricity. In an unexpected move, the company announced shareholder incentives that put Midlands at the top of the range of electricity companies.

Faced with hostile bids, other regional electricity companies have dug deep into their balance sheets in search of cash with which to buy shareholder loyalty. However, that move was not expected from Midlands, which had, until the Monopolies and Mergers Commission became interested, struck up a friendship with PowerGen. The measures, which include a special dividend that will cost £200 million, a 31.7 per cent hike in the interim dividend and a commitment to real dividend growth of 6 per cent a year until March 2000, suggest one of two strategies. Midlands may have given up hope that PowerGen will win regulatory approval and proceed with its recommended bid. The sweeteners, therefore, represent a bulwark against other predators. Alternatively, the extra cash may be a signal urging bidders to back off pending the MMC's blessing.

The case for the latter seems more plausible. Independence may be appealing, but energy is becoming a global business. With full competition just around the corner, the small player will find it hard to compete.

Siebe

SIEBE was almost implausibly upbeat about its prospects for the full year. Boasting record order books, it proudly ticked off the achievement of all its short-term targets bar one. Cost reduction, organic sales and profit growth were all in line with predictions; only stock turn failed to achieve demanding growth of 20 per cent.

Siebe makes a virtue of being upfront. American-style, about its targets — a discipline that other British manufacturers could well adopt, if they dared. Earnings forecasts are being upgraded, but the shares are not necessarily a buy at these levels.

The problem is in sustaining the company's current level of profitability when margins in its core businesses are as high as 15 per cent. Siebe is unlikely to improve the return on sales much and therefore progress must come from turnover growth and acquisitions. With a strong order backlog, the outlook is favourable, but investors will be aware of warnings about the automotive and construction industries. Acquisitions will be forthcoming, but, as Siebe grows, the company will need to buy larger companies and bring them quickly up to scratch. That task will be increasingly difficult.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Dec	898-890	Mar	1011-1010
Mar	935-934	May	1030-1019
May	954-953	Jul	unq
Jul	973-972	Sep	--
Sep	992-992		
Dec	1004-1003	Volume: 2365	

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jan	2028-2026	Sep	1770-1760
Mar	1915-1910	Nov	1744-1720
May	1846-1845	Jan	1730-1715
Jul	1800-1798	Volume: 5745	

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	303.1-02.0
Spot: 390.0		Dec	297.5-96.5
Mar	351.4-51.0	Mar	296.4-93.5
May	341.2-40.5	May	298.0-94.6
Aug	331.2-30.5	Volume: 726	

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on December 4

(p/kg lw)	Pigs	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	105.36	118.91	122.25
(+/-)	+0.72	+4.61	-2.45
Eng/Wales:	105.44	119.88	122.02
(+/-)	+0.73	+5.90	-2.42
(%)	-1.0	+16.0	+6.0
Scotland:	102.24	115.53	124.23
(+/-)	+0.80	-0.30	-3.38
(%)	+20.0	+44.0	+35.0

ICIS-LOR (London 4.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	17.55	+0.20
Brent 15 day (Jan)	17.55	+0.20
Brent 15 day (Feb)	17.15	+0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Jan)	18.70	+0.20
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	18.35	+0.15

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas 15	B: 171 (-3)	C: 173 (-3)
Gasoil EEC	168 (+3)	169 (+3)
Non EEC 1H Jan	168 (+3)	169 (+3)
Non EEC 1H Feb	164 (+2)	165 (+2)
3.5 Fuel Oil	96 (+6)	97 (+5)
Naphtha	154 (n/c)	156 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Dec	163.50-63.75	Mar	157.25-57.50
Jan	163.75-64.00	Apr	155.00-55.50
Feb	160.50-60.75	Vol: 2204.2	

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jan	17.52-17.53	Apr	16.70 BID
Feb	17.16-17.17	May	16.54-16.56
Mar	16.90-16.92	Vol: 32770	

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jan	128.10	Jan	117.00
Mar	129.75	Mar	119.15
May	131.85	May	121.50
Jul	134.00	Sep	110.50
Sep	115.30	Nov	112.50
Volume: 373		Volume: 29	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	270.0
Apr	270.5	267.5
May	unq	297.5
	Volume: 25	

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
Jan 109.75-110.25

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Dec 95	1595	1585	1575
Jan 96	1560	1530	1535
Feb 96	1540	1530	1518
Apr 96	1540	1525	1530
Vol: 333 lots		Open Interest: 3828	
	Index 1615 -6		

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE — Rudolf Wolff

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash: 3942.0-2945.0	Settle: 2718.0-2719.0	Vol: 1581225
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	759.00-760.00	728.00-729.00	175200
Lead ($/tonne)	1011.5-1012.0	1035.5-1036.5	959675
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	6165.0-6175.0	6210.0-6215.0	33735
Tin ($/tonne)	1637.0-1637.5	1676.0-1677.0	1149125
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	7855.0-7860.0	7980.0-7990.0	88050
Nickel ($/tonne)			

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Dec 95 ...	3688.0	3690.0	3650.0	3675.0	12968
Previous open interest: 77181	Mar 96 ...	3712.5	3712.5	3675.5	3698.5	4003
FT-SE 250	Dec 95 ...				3970.0	0
Previous open interest: 3500	Mar 96 ...				4018.0	0
Three Month Sterling	Dec 95 ...	93.54	93.55	93.53	93.54	9065
Previous open interest: 398560	Mar 96 ...	93.84	93.85	93.81	93.83	8937
	Jun 96 ...	93.96	93.98	93.93	93.96	6868
Three Mth Eurodollar	Dec 95 ...				94.28	0
Previous open interest: 110	Mar 96 ...				94.71	0
Three Mth Euro DM	Dec 95 ...	96.08	96.09	96.06	96.07	18144
Previous open interest: 931617	Mar 96 ...	96.34	96.35	96.33	96.34	17428
Long Gilt	Dec 95 ...	110-12	110-24	110-08	110-23	10614
Previous open interest: 141702	Mar 96 ...	109-25	110-07	109-19	110-05	55406
Japanese Govmt Bond	Dec 95 ...	122.62	122.62	122.34	122.40	562
	Mar 96 ...	121.38	121.38	121.08	121.16	3802
German Gov Bd Bund	Dec 95 ...	99.32	99.60	99.24	99.54	102336
Previous open interest: 229309	Mar 96 ...	98.67	98.94	98.60	98.88	141594
Three month ECU	Dec 95 ...	94.47	94.55	94.47	94.54	1741
Previous open interest: 21730	Mar 96 ...	94.81	94.82	94.78	94.81	744
Euro Swiss Franc	Dec 95 ...	97.76	97.78	97.72	97.78	2445
Previous open interest: 55524	Mar 96 ...	97.98	98.04	97.95	98.04	5641
Italian Govmt Bond	Mar 96 ...	104.48	104.71	103.95	104.22	31157
Previous open interest: 35988	Jun 96 ...	103.85	103.85	103.85	103.72	20

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¼. Finance Hse 7
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6⅛ Low 6⅛ Week fixed: 6⅛
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6⅛; 3 mth 6¼. Sell: 2 mth 6¼; 3 mth: 6¼.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	
Sterling Money Rates:	6⅝-6⅝	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6¼
Interbank:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛

Overnight: open 6⅛, close 6¼.

Local Authority Deps:	6⅛	n/a	6⅛	6⅛	6⅛
Sterling CDs:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛
Dollar CDs:	5.81	n/a	5.68	5.51	5.63
Building Society CDs:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅛-5⅛	5⅝-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-4⅛
Deutschemark:	4⅛-3⅛	4⅛-4	3⅝-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	4⅛-3⅛
French Franc:	6⅛-5⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-5⅛	6⅛-6⅛	5⅛-4⅛
Swiss Franc:	2⅛-2⅛	2⅛-2⅛	2⅛-2⅛	2⅛-2	2⅛-1⅝
Yen:	⅛-⅛	⅛-⅛	⅛-⅛	⅛-⅛	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $386.30-386.60 Close: $386.50-387.00 High: $386.60-387.10
Low: $385.65-386.05 AM: $386.30 PM: $386.55

Krugerrand: $386.50-388.50 (£250.25-252.25)

Platinum: $413.00 (£267.50) Silver: $5.23 (£3.385) Palladium: $132.75 (£86.00)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Dec 5	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.4684-2.4827	2.4795-2.4827	¼-⅛pr	1¼-1⅛pr
Brussels	45.320-45.600	45.50-45.60	12-9pr	31-26pr
Copenhagen	8.5340-8.5910	8.5690-8.5910	1¾-1pr	3¼-2⅝pr
Dublin	0.96.37-0.9675	0.9650-0.9675	10-7pr	24-19pr
Frankfurt	2.2052-2.2165	2.2134-2.2165	½-⅜pr	1¼-1pr
Lisbon	231.49-233.08	232.45-233.08	29-56ds	118-162ds
Madrid	188.59-189.41	189.10-189.41	44-52ds	137-153ds
Milan	2450.40-2466.60	2458.90-2463.10	8-9ds	24-26ds
Montreal	2.0960-2.1128	2.1064-2.1094	0.16-0.09pr	0.26-0.14pr
New York	1.5338-1.5446	1.5416-1.5426	0.11-0.09pr	0.27-0.24pr
Oslo	9.7160-9.7720	9.7570-9.7720	1¼-¾pr	3¼-2¾pr
Paris	7.6440-7.6690	7.6550-7.6690	¼-¼pr	¾-¾pr
Stockholm	10.004-10.112	10.089-10.112	¼-¼ds	¼-¼ds
Tokyo	155.17-156.56	156.30-156.56	¼-¼pr	2¼-2¼pr
Vienna	15.510-15.602	15.576-15.602	¼-¼pr	¼-¼pr
Zurich	1.7911-1.8030	1.8002-1.8030	¼-¼pr	2-1¾pr

Source: Extel — Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3563-1.3572
Austria	10.08-10.09
Belgium (Com)	29.46-29.47
Canada	1.3671-1.3676
Denmark	5.5490-5.5520
France	4.9595-4.9615
Germany	1.4328-1.4332
Hong Kong	7.7355-7.7365
Ireland	1.5981-1.6001
Italy	1596.3-1597.8
Japan	101.27-101.32
Malaysia	2.5400-2.5410
Netherlands	1.6040-1.6046
Norway	6.3111-6.3148
Portugal	150.50-150.60
Singapore	1.4126-1.4135
Spain	122.37-122.47
Sweden	6.5273-6.5348
Switzerland	1.1643-1.1648

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5426-1.5452
Australia dollar	2.0944-2.0972
Bahrain dinar	0.5715-0.5835
Brazil real*	1.4901-1.4943
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.695-0.705
Finland markka	6.520-6.636
Greece drachma	360.0-367.0
Hong Kong dollar	11.9452-11.9544
India rupee	52.98-53.94
Indonesia rupiah	3466.0-3534.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.455-0.465
Malaysia ringgit	3.9223-3.9264
New Zealand dollar	2.3871-2.3905
Pakistan rupee	52.73 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.5175-5.6415
Singapore dollar	2.1813-2.1841
S Africa rand (com)	5.565-5.667
U A E dirham	5.5675-5.6915

Barclays Bank GTS • Lloyds Bank

FT-SE VOLUMES

3I	362	Legal & Gn	713
ASDA Gp	7,700	Lloyds Bk	2,400
Abbey Nt	2,700	London Elect	494
Allied Dom	2,300	Marks Spr	1,500
Argyll Gp	2,200	Mid Elec	1,200
Arjo Wggns	5,800	NatWst Bk	5,900
Asl Foods	589	Nat Power	1,100
BAA	2,600	NW Water	485
BAT Inds	2,800	P & O	2,800
BOC	707	Pearson	965
BP	186,000	PowerGen	509
BSkyB	3,600	Prudential	4,200
BTR	38,000	REXAM	4,300
BT	21,000	RMC	204
Bk of Scot	1,300	RTZ	1,400
Barclays	2,400	Rank Org	1,500
Bass	2,000	Reckitt Col	628
Blue Circle	2,700	Redland	1,100
Boots	1,600	Reed Intl	2,300
Bat	4,200	Rentokil	334
BA	4,400	Reuters	4,200
Brit Gas	8,200	Rolls Royce	2,100
Brit Steel	7,300	Royal Ins	2,000
Burmah Cstl	508	Ryl Bk Scot	2,400
Cable Wire	5,300	Sainsbury	971
Cadbury	1,500	Schroders	0
Carlton Cms	1,000	Scot & New	867
Cm Union	291	Scot Power	2,700
Cookson	587	Sears	4,200
Courtaulds	516	Svrn Trent	241
De La Rue	1,600	Shell Trans	15,000
Enterpr Oil	3,300	Siebe	3,300
Forte	4,900	Smkl Bch	2,900
GKN	1,400	Smith Nph	299
GRE	7,300	Sthern Elec	1,400
GUS	535	Std Chartd	2,300
Gen Acc	800	Sun Allnce	1,600
Gen Elec	5,600	Tl Gp	318
Glaxo Well	8,100	TSB	1,000
Granada	528	Tate & Lyle	396
Grand Met	3,000	Tesco	7,600
Guinness	842	Thames W	309
HSBC	3,500	Thm EMI	1,400
Hanson	20,000	Tomkins	1,200
ICI	931	Unilever	2,400
Inchcape	1,700	Vodafone	11,000
Kingfisher	2,300	Whitbread	843
LASMO	3,700	Wilms Hld	2,400
Ladbroke	7,900	Wolseley	611
Land Secs	358	Zeneca	1,400

WALL STREET

	Dec 5 midday	Dec 4 close
AMP Inc	40¾	39⅞
AMR Corp	77⅜	77⅛
AT & T	65⅞	65⅞
Abbott Labs	40⅜	39⅞
Advanced Micro	20⅛	20⅛
Aetna Life	72⅛	72⅛
Ahmanson (HF)	23⅛	22⅝
Air Prod & Chem	59⅛	58⅝
AirTouch Comm	28⅛	28⅛
Alberto-Culver B	32⅛	32⅛
Albertson's	32⅛	31⅞
Alcan Aluminm	33⅜	33¼
Alco Standard	43⅛	43⅛
Allied Signal	49⅝	48⅝
Alum Co of Am	58⅛	57⅞
Amax Gold Inc	6⅜	6⅛
Amerada Hess	48⅛	49
Amer Brands	43	43⅛
Amer El Power	38⅛	38¼
Amer Express	43⅛	43
Amer Gen Corp	33⅜	33⅛
Amer Home Pr	94⅛	94⅛
Amer Intl	92	92
Amer Stores	29⅜	29¼
Amer Standard	30⅛	31
Ameritech	56⅜	56⅛
Amoco	68⅛	69⅜
Anheuser-Busch	66⅜	66⅛
Apple Computer	38⅝	39⅛
Archer Daniels	17⅞	17⅞
Armco	5⅝	5⅝
Armstrng Wrld	63⅞	61⅞
Asarco	35⅜	35⅜
Ashland Oil	35⅛	35
Atl Richfield	110⅝	110⅝
Auto Data Pro	80⅝	79⅞
Avery Dennison	48⅛	48⅛
Avon Products	73⅜	73⅛
Baker Hughes	21⅛	21⅛
Baltim Gas & El	27⅞	27⅞
Banc One	39⅜	39⅜
BankAmerica	67	66⅞
Bank of NY	48⅛	48⅜
Bankers Tr NY	66⅛	67⅛
Barnett Banks	60⅛	61⅛
Bausch & Lomb	36⅛	36
Baxter Intl	41⅞	41⅞
Becn Dickson	70⅝	70⅜
Bell Atlantic	65⅛	65⅞
Bell Industries	22⅜	22⅛
BellSouth	41⅛	40⅝
Black & Decker	37	37⅛
Block (H&R)	44	43⅝
Boeing	73½	72⅝
Boise Cascade	36⅛	36
Bristol Myrs Sq	83⅛	82⅝
Browning Ferris	31	31⅛
Brunswick	21⅛	21⅛
Burlington Nthn	80⅝	80⅝
CNA Financial	114⅜	115
CPC Intl	69⅝	69⅜
CSX	86⅞	87⅛
Campbell Soup	56⅛	56⅛
Can Pacific	18⅜	18⅜
Cptl Cities ABC	125⅛	125⅝
Carolina Pwr	33⅞	33⅞
Caterpillar	61⅛	61⅛
Central & SW	28⅜	27⅞
Champion Intl	48⅛	48⅛
Chase Manhat	62⅞	62⅝
Chemical Bk	61⅛	61
Chevron Corp	50⅛	50⅜
Chrysler	52⅛	52⅛
Chubb Corp	100⅛	100⅛
Cigna Corp	110½	110⅜
Citicorp	72⅛	72⅝
Clorox	74⅜	74⅜
Coastal Corp	34⅝	34⅝
Coca Cola	76⅛	76⅛
Colgate-Palmolive	73	72⅞
Columbia Gas	43⅝	43
ColumbiaHCA	52⅛	51⅛
Compaq Comp	48⅛	48⅛
Comp Ass Int	64⅛	63⅞
Conagra	40⅛	40⅛
Connail	69⅛	69⅛
Cons Edison	29⅜	29⅜
Cons Nat Gas	46	45⅞
Cooper Inds	37⅛	37⅛
Coresstates	39⅜	39⅜
Corning Inc	31⅛	30⅝
Crown Cork	42⅛	42
Dana Corp	39⅛	39⅛
Dayton Hudson	72⅝	72⅛
Deere	32⅛	32⅛
Delta Air Lines	78⅞	79⅛
Deluxe Corp	27⅞	27⅞
Detroit Edison	33⅜	33⅛
Digital Equip	63⅞	62⅝
Dillard Dept St	39⅛	39⅛
Disney (Walt)	62⅛	62
Dominion Res	40⅝	40⅝
Donelley (RR)	38⅜	38⅜
Dover Corp	37⅞	37⅞
Dow Chemical	72⅛	71⅞

THE TIMES

CITY DIARY

She made it — and she kept it

WARREN BUFFETT move over. Anne Schreiber, a spinster who worked as a lowly auditor for the US tax office for most of her life, invested $5,000 in the stock market in 1944. When she died recently she was found to be worth $22 million as a result of her investments, with an annual dividend income of $750,000. Operating on her own without the help of fancy analytical aids, she developed an investment philosophy similar to Mr Buffett's, and her investment performance of 18.3 per cent per year is up to the standard of the Sage of Omaha himself. Also like Buffett, she hated to spend the money.

Lottery man

CAMELOT has brought in some extra firepower to help to fend off the continual criticism stirred up by the National Lottery. It has hired a new parliamentary troubleshooter in the shape of Richard Brown, deputy director-general of the British Chambers of Commerce. Brown, 35, starts in February as head of parliamentary affairs, a new role that is designed to take some of the heat off David Rigg, Camelot's loquacious director of communications. Brown, who is not taking on one of the easiest jobs in the world, will spend his time talking to politicians, ministries, trade unions and the Church.

Inside story

The large mound two doors down from the Queen Mother during her stay in the King Edward VII turned out to be none other than John "Fingers" Fingleton, stalwart of countless City PR battles. Fingers, who worked for Shandwick at the height of the 1980s takeover boom, had gone into hospital for a hip replacement, and did his bit for the Crown by acting as a decoy. "I'm twice her weight and half her age," he croons. Fingers, who has been lying low for the past couple of years — his gap years, he insists — flies to Cape Town later this month to take in the cricket at Newlands. Now three stone lighter, he is threatening a City comeback on his return in January. You have been warned . . . . .



"Sorry sold out of shares"

Steaming ahead

TWO paintings from British Rail Pension Fund may be about to catch a corporate treasurer's eye or two in time for Christmas. The Noortman Gallery in London's Old Bond Street is offering Salomon van Ruysdael's *Dutch Vessels On The River Waal* and David Tenier's self-portrait with his family. Noortman says BR paid 720,000 Dutch guilders (then equivalent to about £200,000) for the first painting 18 years ago and sold it to the dealer at Sotheby's in July for more than £1.5 million. The Tenier, executed in 1644-45, was sold for £450,000.

A COMPOSER, a dentist and a motorcycle racer are among 100 British women due at Claridge's tomorrow for the 1995 Cosmopolitan/American Express Achievement Awards. One of the finalists will walk away with a cheque for £5,000.

French strike chaos is hard to translate into Britain

Philip Bassett finds that the Channel is a barrier against industrial strife



Striking French railmen weld tracks in order to block the yard at Sotteville-les-Rouen in protest against social security reform

For those in Britain with memories long enough to recall a time before the Conservative Government, France's own current winter of discontent seems deeply familiar: massed ranks of public sector workers on strike, with key sectors — railways, energy, bus and metro services, postal services, the schools — crippled by industrial action.

But could France's present rash of strikes happen in the UK — either now, or under a future Labour government led by Tony Blair?

Theoretically, the answer is yes. In spite of the extensive legislation surrounding strike action in Britain, no government or management in a free country has yet devised a system that can ultimately prevent strikes. If employees really want to strike, they will — as Ford workers at Dagenham and Southampton showed recently when they staged unoffical strikes over pay.

Practically, though, the real answer is probably no — and, in spite of one or two disputes, such as Ford or Liverpool docks currently, prompting hot-headed commentators into predicting the return of the strike culture to Britain, the likelihood of UK employees now staging anything like France's present strikes looks remote.

According to the latest international comparisons, Britain's and France's current strike rates are similar. In 1993, the number of working days lost per 1,000 employees was 30 in both Britain and France. In Greece, the leading country in the international strike league, it was 840, while in Japan it was too low to register.

Spread across the previous decade, though, Britain's strike record is worse than France's: 240 days lost per 1,000 employees in the UK, against France's 50 — although some big disputes, such as the 1984-85 miners' strike, distort Britain's average.

Two principal factors run against any mirroring in the UK now of France's strikes:

☐ **Employment law:** In France, there is a legal right to strike. While certain restrictions apply to improper use, the right is laid down in the French constitution — and no French government would tamper with it lightly.

Although French law does make provisions for governing strikes, including requiring that notice be given in public service disputes, it is a great deal less than the widespread circumscribing of strike action in UK law after the Conservative Government's string of Acts from 1980 onwards laying down increasing and increasingly complex provisions on when and how strikes can be mounted.

In Britain, in order to provide for trade unions' enjoying immunity from civil legal actions when their members strike, strikes have to be preceded by tightly regulated secret and largely postal ballots, and sympathy or secondary action strikes are now all but impossible.

Crucially in the UK, strikes must be "trade disputes" between employers and workers. Together with the provisions on secondary action, this effectively makes unlawful any political dispute such as the French strikes over issues of Government policy such as welfare and health reform.

Perhaps most important is the protection given in France to individual strikers. In Britain, as a number of strikers have found to their cost, even if every balloting and other provision is scrupulously complied with, strikers can still be collectively sacked by their employer for breaching their employment contracts. In France, during a strike, the strikers' employment contracts are suspended but not terminated (except where a serious offence has occurred). Strikers must, by law, be reinstated when they return to work.

☐ **Collective bargaining:** Business and the Conservative Government have fundamentally changed the nature of wage bargaining in the UK since 1979, heavily decentralising it and, in many cases, lifting trade unions out of bargaining altogether by derecognising them, and setting pay directly with individual employees. The individualisation of employee relations in Britain is probably the single most important current trend in dealing with people at work.

Both collective bargaining coverage in Britain and union density — the proportion of employees who are union members — have fallen since 1979. Most reliable estimates put collective bargaining in the UK at below 50 per cent — well below, according to many. Union density is also lower now: probably only about a third of employees are union members, buttressed by the public sector at about double that rate, with private sector density a good deal lower at about 25 per cent.

So, even potential union leverage in Britain is limited by fewer union deals with employers, and lower union penetration. Union density in France is the lowest among all 25 countries in the OECD, at an estimated 10 per cent or lower. Private sector unionisation in France is virtually non-existent, and unionisation in the public sector, though higher, is concentrated — especially in areas like transport and posts.

> "Some Labour figures are keen to see the party adopt something like France's protection from dismissal for strikers"

However, in spite of its low union density, collective bargaining coverage in France is not only high — at a rate of 92 per cent of all employees, it is behind only Austria and Finland, at 98 and 95 per cent respectively — but unlike most other countries, it grew during the 1980s, spurred on by key legal changes in 1982 after the Socialists came to power. So, though the leading union confederations in France are fractured and politically aligned, the extensive collective bargaining coverage offers widespread scope for union action driven at ground level, such as the current strikes.

Would all this change in Britain under a Labour government? Probably not much. Tony Blair, repeatedly emphasises his intention to keep most of the Conservatives' employment legislation — and especially pre-strike ballots. Some Labour figures, though, are keen to see the party adopt something like France's protection from dismissal for strikers, though the Labour leadership is likely to be wary of adopting as policy a move that could be seen by the party's opponents as a striker's charter far beyond what Labour has ever promised before.

However, the potential for more strike action under Labour is clearly there, especially from public sector workers with built-up expectations of a Labour government, and particularly since Labour has little, if any, overt policy towards pay in the public sector.

Even so, the likelihood of any repetition in Britain of France's current strikes must be low. Unless there are fundamental shifts in the pattern of British employee relations, France's strikes are unlikely to slip across the Channel, but are instead likely to remain pictures on Britain's television screens, and part of the folk memory of the UK's last Labour government.



ANTHONY HARRIS

Does Kenneth Clarke really matter at all?

Well, thank goodness that's over. It did seem a bit quixotic to spend the pre-Budget period in the magical detachment of the Australian bush; but now that I am back, it looks like a useful habit. No silly speculation, no feverish analysis, and now it turns out that it is not just distance that lends disenchantment to the view.

Every other article I read argues that not only was the actual Budget a non-event, but that any conceivable alternative would have been equally unimportant. A wise man would have ignored the whole affair; so post hoc, my holiday made me wise.

Just luck? Perhaps not: people have been churning out "Why the fuss?" articles about budgets for as long as I can remember. This year the arguments were more than usually pertinent. The choices open to the Kenneth Clarke were simply trivial compared with the uncontrollable forces acting on the economy: the world trade cycle, commodity prices, building society windfalls — even the impact of maturing Tessas. But perhaps there is a more general truth here: how much real power do Chancellors have?

The best test is provided not by the good Chancellors — it can always be argued that a strong economy makes its own luck — but by the bad ones. We all "know", for example, that John Major as Chancellor went into the EMS at the wrong exchange rate, and inflated spending to a level that posed insoluble problems for himself as Prime Minister. But could anyone have avoided all the problems he inherited?

Blame Nigel Lawson, then: but even with better timing, could Lawson have escaped the speculative blowout of 1989? Go back to Anthony Barber, by common consent the worst modern Chancellor: could a better one have prevented an inflationary response to the earlier devaluation? Despite Opec? Surely not.

As a first approximation, we can say budgets seem to have more impact on politics than on economics. Some of the "worst" economically (Major, Maudling) have best political results, and vice versa — remember Roy Jenkins. But to get any further on the economic side, we have to dive into economic theory. The Nobel-winning rational expectations hypothesis (denounced here recently by Anatole Kaletsky) is only the latest of the many theories holding that governments do not matter.

A much older relation is the equivalence theorem: that it makes no difference whether you confiscate taxpayers' money through tax, or borrow it through deficit. This offends Keynesians, and surely does not apply in a slump. But at other times there clearly is a trade-off between higher taxes and higher long-term interest rates, and it is hard to be sure where the balance lies.

Then there is a whole family of more restricted limitations on supposed power. In the early post-war years of semi-fixed exchange rates, the Treasury believed interest rates (and therefore money supply) did not matter: they could influence the structure of demand, but not its level. Then came the counter half-truth that only money mattered — deflated when money supply proved impossible to control. Finally, EMS membership, bolstered by a new Treasury nonsense: governments had no influence at all over real exchange rates, only nominal rates. Golden Wednesday showed up that one: control, no; influence, emphatically yes.

There, perhaps, is a clue to all this competing nonsense: government policies do influence the economic weather, but the effect is very hard to predict accurately. It is the Red Book rather than the Budget itself which is a fraud. My own view, formed more than 30 years ago in the furious arguments before the 1967 devaluation (and therefore fiercely held) is that the exchange rate is the most important of all the variables a government can manipulate: this implies opposition to Maastricht and EMU, and support for tight fiscal and easy monetary policy. You disagree? Provided your view is based on a theory of how the whole system works, it would be a pleasure to debate it.

Wall Street paved with gold

US investment bankers anticipate return of the big bonus, says **Richard Thomson**

For much of Wall Street, this Christmas will definitely be a season of glad tidings. Bonus time is here again and most investment bankers are anticipating the large payouts coming their way after the meagre pickings of last year. They are about to re-establish themselves as masters of the earnings universe.

Goldman Sachs will set an upbeat tone for the bonus season when it announces its payout levels to staff in the next week or so. Goldmans, where bonuses form a higher proportion of total remuneration than most investment banks, has already told its clerical and administrative staff that their payouts will be at least 20 per cent of basic salary compared with eight per cent last year. For seasoned professionals, the bonus will be many times larger. Goldman is expected to make profits of about $1.4 billion this year, the second highest on record.

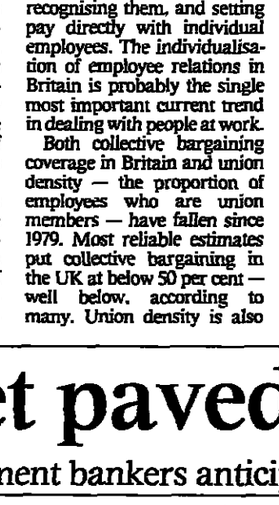
Morgan Stanley and Bear Sterns, which have both had particularly good years, are also likely to award basic bonus increases of 25 to 30 per cent. Banking, underwriting and equity market dealing have produced hefty profits for such firms over the past few months and rumours, always endemic at this time of year, of big bonus increases proliferate.

The bonuses are important because the level set in New York is certain to determine those paid to thousands of US bank employees in London and elsewhere in Europe and the Far East. They, in turn, will influence the general level of bank bonuses around the world. The bonus gravy train is on the move again.

With an eye to the disasters at Barings and Daiwa, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, which regulates US banks, has already sent out a warning about how much derivatives and other traders should be paid. Bankers are suspicious that the regulator is trying to limit the amount everyone else gets too.

For many bankers, 80 per cent of their income will come from their bonus, which is why there is so much at stake. An executive earning a basic salary of $150,000 is likely to find his total earnings boosted to more than $1 million after his bonus this year. The whole tortuous process begins in about September for most firms as managers suggest bonus levels for their staff and then the board tries to negotiate down the overall level. Every individual's performance is haggled over, since managers know that comparisons will be made among peers within minutes. Glaring anomolies or unfairness is likely to cause discontent. Pitching the level too low could cause the departure of prized executives; pitching it too high would waste money. Salomon Brothers has bravely attempted over the past two years to bring down the size of its bonuses and overall remuneration under the strict guidance of Warren Buffet, its leading shareholder. Its efforts failed, thanks to a revolt among staff. Other firms simply picked off the best Salomon employees with higher pay offers, resulting in a mass exodus of talent from the bank before the policy of limiting pay was formally abandoned this year by Deryck Maughan, the chief executive. High pay and bonus levels are here to stay.

The biggest headaches come for foreign companies, which often have to justify payouts to US staff that may be several times more than the chief executive at home is paid. "Every year it's real painful to explain why this should happen, but you have to pay the going rate," says Alan Johnson, who runs his own Wall Street compensation consultancy firm. The going rate for even a mediocre investment banker in New York is still a lot higher than anywhere else in the world. NatWest Markets, for example, follows most other international banks in paying the going rate in each local market. UK executives working in New York may therefore do substantially better than their colleagues back in London, simply because bonus levels are higher among Wall Street firms against which they compete. On the other hand, no one pretends that each market is completely discrete. Investment bankers are more mobile than executives in most international industries and since banks pay well to get the best people, a rise in pay levels in New York is likely to force an increase in other centres.



Cheer for the NYSE

Not everyone will be joining in the bonanza in a year that has produced unusual disparities of performance. Salomon Brothers, like Goldmans, is set to announce its bonuses in the next ten days, but in contrast to its rival the results are likely to be disappointing. Lehman Brothers, too, has not had a particularly good year. Merrill Lynch is also likely to keep its bonus increase to a *minimum*, but only because, unlike many rivals, it had a good year in 1994 and paid its staff so well then.

Bumper profits in 1993 led firms like Goldman Sachs to be extremely generous — more than 100 employees in London, for example, received payouts of £1 million or more. Last year, when revenues fell away dramatically, bonuses plummeted by at least 30 per cent in most firms, so most bankers feel there is a lot of lost ground to be made up this year.

The biggest problem in 1995 was increased competition. The takeover boom and the plethora of record breaking multibillion dollar corporate deals have been a godsend to bankers, but the fees have generally been a third to a half less than two years ago. The US investment banks are now having to compete against commercial banks for corporate finance business, as well as with UK, German and even some Japanese banks.

Some sectors have had a bad time. "Dealers and salesmen in the bond markets are likely to see their bonuses unchanged or down by as much as 40 per cent," says Mike Maloney, who runs his own New York head-hunting firm for bond traders.

"Only the top 10 to 15 per cent of traders will get a significant bonus increase. Markets weren't good, competition from foreign banks has increased and the customer base has changed radically. Large companies no longer use as many dealers as they used to but limit themselves to using maybe only four or five firms — usually the larger ones."

The outlook for dealers in London is unlikely to be any better than in the US, he believes.

So while many bonuses will be going up sharply, joy among investment bankers will not be universal. Spare a thought also for the thousands of bankers who lost their jobs over the past year as their firms struggled to cut costs. It is partly the money saved by those cost cuts that will go towards paying the bonuses of those that are left in work.

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Express Delivery Network

Early losses reduced

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2937½	2137½	ABN-AMRO	2925½	+12½	4.4	10.8
854	413	Abbey Nat	643	- 7	3.8	12.9
368	250	Allied Irish	363	+ 3	4.0	10.6
298	196	Aus New Z	298		5.3	
4337½	2531½	Bank Americ	4331½	+ 81½		
765	191½	Bank Scotland	761	+ 2	2.7	12.4
817½	557½	Barclays	795	+ 1	3.5	10.8
465	288	Bk of Ireland	464	+ 9	3.5	9.7
525	418	Cater Allen	450	+ 6	6.5	7.3
4718½	3450	Citicorp	4718½	+ 68½		
348½	216½	Close Bros	327	+ 5	3.3	14.5
2162½	2125½	Commercial	2150½	+ 18½	3.6	
1375	925½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1240½	+ 12½	0.4	
3231½	2775	Deutsche Bk	3118½	+ 35½	2.4	
6811½	5685½	Espirito Santo	6165½	+ 35½	5.8	8.2
1611	1138½	Fuji Bank Y	1376	- 2½	0.7	
490	395	Genesis Nati	453	+ 6	6.2	14.6
253	180	Hambros	233	+ 2	4.6	13.7
1012	589	HSBC	1004	+ 2	3.5	13.1
990	578	HSBC HK	979½	+ 3½	3.6	12.7
378	338	Irish Perm	378	+ 13	3.2	8.7
467	352	Kredbk (L)	463		5.1	10.6
145	85	Mey Shecson	137		8.2	10.6
894½	530	Lloyds	891	+ 5	3.8	13.6
692	479	Nat Aust Bk	683	+ 3	3.8	
697	452	Nat West	677	+ 11	4.3	10.4
3000	2150	Ollerton Bank	2600		2.5	13.4
67	44	Rea Brothers	65		2.8	10.0
619	373½	Rpl Bk Scot	572	- 1	3.6	13.7
1478	1065½	Schroders	1326		1.3	16.7
1188	823½	Schroders NV	1138		1.6	16.2
111	61	Singer & Fried	110		4.2	11.4
625	246	Stand Chart	604	- 10	1.9	15.2
417	317	TSB	416	+ 5	3.4	14.6
121	70	Union	106	- 1	3.5	
1745½	9043½	Wells Fargo	17411½	+ 275	2.1	
270	211	Westpac	264½	- 2	5.1	
395	300	Wintrust	368		5.3	15.3

BREWERIES

237	163	Allied Philips	237		0.5		
701	497	Bass	669	- 5	4.0	16.1	
449	338	Boddington	445	+ 2	2.6	22.9	
192	137	Burtonwood Brwr	176	- 3	3.8	17.0	
414	294	Wade Mgt Ltd	337	+ 7	1.2	12.8	
148	73	Waste Reduc	135	+ 1	1.1	29.3	

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

150	125	Abbey	140		4.7	9.1	
198	143	Allen	185		3.9	14.3	
151	141	Amalgc	151		3.7	21.3	
275	133	Andrews Sykes	275				
157½	137½	Ansbacher	139	- 4	1.8	17.2	
405	307½	Associate	398		10.6	6.2	
38	23	Bailey (Ben) Con	35		5.2	6.1	
43½	30½	Barcom	35				
228	158	Barratt Devs	227	+ 1	4.1	14.2	
178	121	Bovis Homes	168	+ 1	4.2	12.1	
256	180	Bellway	255		3.9		
37	15	Bstimrch	17		1.5	9.1	
481	315	Bovis Hldg Co	481	- 1	2.6	14.9	
185	160	Brit Bron	177		3.9	6.2	
245	190	Brod (Hnry)	193		4.6	15.5	
125	81	Brunton Hire	90		3.2	15.9	
90	17	Britannia Grp	26		7.7	9.1	
160	36	Br Bldg & Eng	40		2.5	5.5	
134	93	Bryant	104½	+ 1½	6.0	9.5	
121	98	CALA	111		3.6	10.4	
38	16	Campbell & Smi	21			16.7	
64	49	Clarke T	49		10.4	17.6	
242½	67	Costain	74				
110	53	Countryside	75		7.0	10.7	
151	97	Crest Nicholson	65		3.8	9.1	
98	70	Cussons	81		5.9	7.1	
293	165	Eve Group	200	+ 2	6.9	10.8	
49	13	Galliford	19		6.6	38.6	
953	738	Gleeson (M20)	738		0.5		
186	61	Green (Eredi)	61		10.5	35.6	
273	178	Hanelock Exrol	272		1.5	22.9	
198	115	Hawden-Stuart	138		2.5	14.7	
93	73	Higgs & Hill	93		3.4	78.0	
94	14	Howard Mdgs	15		6.7	17.5	
79½		Hy-Lands	29½				
137	98	Hyder	133		3.6	12.9	
356	185	Laing (J)	356		2.4	31.5	
103	62	Laing (John)	103		7.8		
61	12	Lovell (Y)	35½		1.9	2.6	
210	176	Mactaggart (J)	186		3.5	10.8	
186	104	McAlpine (A)	135	+ 1	5.6	19.4	
70	48	McCarthy & S	68		3.8		
90	51	Morgan Sendall	78	- 1	1.4		
125	116	Morrison Const	125	+ 2	4.3	12.0	
1855	1355	Morrison (J)	1650		4.2	29.0	
216	162	Persimmon	192	+ 1	6.5	12.6	
114½	76½	Pochin	100		2.0	12.2	
126	94	Prowting	112		4.2	14.9	
51	13	Raine Ind	16	- ½		3.9	
63	46	Ransom Retare	49	+ 1	2.6	9.3	
139	93	Redrow	126		3.1	11.7	
398	345	Sheriff Hldgs	345		2.3	12.8	
112½	76	Shanco	77		9.5	11.8	
368	258	Spandcrt	353		1.0	22.5	
176	142	Tay Homes	151	+ 2	4.0	10.9	
130	99	Taylor Woodrw	117		1.4	22.5	
568	415	Tilbury Dougls	443		8.3	15.1	
59½	28	Torex Hire	30		5.7	13.7	
23	6	Trenchwood	10			4.1	
20	9½	Try Group	9½	- ½	7.4	11.1	
109	74½	Wimpeyhall	74½	- ½	6.8	5.6	
116	93	Wimhomes	105		5.4	9.6	
60	37	Ward Hldgs	46		4.1	10.3	
190	129	Westbury	183	- 1	4.0	13.5	
5½	2½	Wiggins	3			20.6	
174	124	Wilcon (C)	153	+ 1	3.7	19.3	
372	308	Wilson Bowdn	347		3.6	12.7	
139	97	Wimpey G	134		5.1	19.5	

BUILDING MATERIALS

14	7½	Allington	13		1.0		
545	311½	Alumasc	420		2.2	18.1	
342	267½	BPB Ind	309	- 5	3.8	14.2	
133	94	Baggeridge Br	111		3.5	10.5	
36	22½	Bardon	32		9.3	13.2	
76	36	Blockleys	39	- 6	4.0		
339	255	Blue Circle	334	+ 9	4.4	15.2	
89	72	Brandon PLC	78		7.7	10.8	
196	108	Br Dredging	108		6.5	14.1	
485	338	CRH	451	+ 2	2.3	17.3	
46	33	Caledonian Ptg	38		3.3		
210	143	Cape	146		9.4	11.3	
273	174	Caradon	190	- 3	6.2	9.8	
134½	99½	Caradon pf	105½	- 1	8.6		
55	18	Chestrcn Gp	19		13.2		
198	105	Dyson (J&J)	195		3.7	15.3	
90	63	Dyson 'A'	83		6.0	6.9	
98½	56½	Eclipse Blinds	94	+ 1			
315	220	Epwin	238		4.7	12.9	
104½	73	Flare	103	+ 1			
99	65	Gibbs & Dandy	90		4.3		
205	160	Graham Grp	205	+ 3	3.3	17.9	
389	312	Hanstead Ldn	389		2.7	17.1	
325	254	Hepworth	313		5.9	14.4	
85	39	Hewerdson	41		7.8	10.8	
398	262	Ibstock Johns	390	+ 1	7.8	14.5	
85	63	Ibstock	67		3.3	11.0	
398	262	Johnstone	335		3.9	7.6	
109	84	Lilleshall	96		7.0	10.3	
348½	165	Marley	312		5.2	9.5	
160	143	Meadhills	148	+ 1	4.3	10.8	
393	288	Meyer Intl	380		3.8	14.4	
193	124	Nuttall (M)	124		7.0	11.1	
108	71	Norcros	77				
20	12	Phoenix Timber	17		10.2		
207	157	Pilkington'A'	196	- 1	2.0	15.5	
177	122	Polypipe	161	- 1	2.1	15.0	
1119	849½	RMC Gp	1016	- 1	2.7	13.8	
18	3	Ramrus	5				
670	322	Redland	578	- 1	5.6	11.3	
122	91½	Ryobell	98		9.5	10.3	
176½	128	Rutherfrd	145		9.3	11.7	
125	100	Rugby Group	106		4.2	13.7	
113	88	Russell (A)	111	+ 3	2.9	15.5	
282	205	SIG	216		3.6	12.0	
19	7½	SWP	13		1.9		
180	156	Sharpe & Fisher	157		4.0	12.5	
43	16	Sprong Ram	24	+ ½	2.6		
130	88	Tarmac	94	+ ½	7.3	14.2	
180	150	Tilbry	117		10.3	10.2	
369	265	Travis Perkins	341	- 1	3.1	14.3	
36	24	Tudor	30		3.1	17.8	
68	33	Waterhouse	41				
136	83	Wickes	122		1.9	22.7	
456	324	Wolseley	437	- 2	2.8	14.5	

BUSINESS SERVICES

2	0½	Anglo Utd	0½				
110	57	App Holo	85				
7¼	5½	Bailey (CH)	6½				
59	38	Black Arrowt	46	+ 1	9.7	7.0	
88	60	Br Bloodstock	80			38.4	
8	5	Cabel Gp	5½				
9¼	4½	Chemex	6½				
161	135	Cmstl	153	- 2	7.4		
277	215	Filtrior	260		7.4	17.8	
43	32	Headway	32			29.1	
436	248	Hornbeck	417	- 1	2.6		
168	104	Lergh	105	- 2	8.0	12.1	
231	102	Nobe Gp	137	- 2	9.7	9.0	
365	151	Photo-Mart	162		3.9	14.2	
68	53	Plant & Equip	57		5.9	6.2	
11	0½	Redpnr	1½				
104	73	Shanks & McEwan	96	- 1	4.4	20.2	
213	180	Sinclair (Wm)	188		5.1		
414	294	Waste Mgt Intl	337	+ 7	1.2	12.8	
148	73	Waste Recvg	135	+ 1	1.1	29.3	

CHEMICALS

198	146	Albright & WH	199	+ 1	4.7	16.8	
187	138	Allied Colloids	155	- 1	2.6	19.0	
295	195	Ampac Indl	208		3.4	13.6	
72	42	Amberley Gp	72		2.3	20.6	
1447½	1139½	BASF Dbl	1143½	- 32½	3.1		
900	689	BOC	885	- 4	3.8	17.0	
360	236	BTP	299	+ 4	5.3	14.3	
1777½	1441½	Bayer DM50	1769½	- 12½	3.5		
165	103	Blagden	161		3.7		
119	71	Brent Chemc	71	- 1	5.6	19.4	
278	200	Br Vita	203	- 1	4.9	12.9	
239	184	Cumming (W)	233		4.2	15.0	
469½	352	Ewenbidder	386	- 12	5.0	17.6	
387½	310	Croda	330		3.5	14.0	
333	135	Dodlee	214		3.4	12.9	
362	254	Elks & Everard	356	+ 3	4.1	14.9	
107	58	Euro Colourt	69	+ 3	4.7	21.7	
224	114	Gibbons	219		5.7	16.6	
745	61	Hickson	82	- 7	8.0	7.9	
1171½	1123½	Hoechst	1169½	+ 34½	3.1		
221½	172	Holliday Chem	173		3.6	12.3	
499½	398	ICI	475	+ 6	4.6	14.8	
360	188½	Inspec	331		1.8	33.1	
156	97½	Kalon	115	+ 4	5.1	12.9	
852	620	Laporte	785		3.1	11.1	
85	65	MTM	75	+ 1	2.6	12.9	
385	288	Manders	290		4.8	13.1	
66	30	Mainstrm	38		9.0	14.2	
516	382½	Mantleholm	394½	- 4½	5.2	17.6	
425	290	Pochin	370		4.9	13.5	
250	188	Scapa	217	+ 1	3.6	15.5	
24	16	Sutcliffe Speak	17		1.9	13.5	
962½	695½	Tenedi Chem	972½	- 5	0.9	12.9	
256	176	Thellygron Hdg	250		3.4	19.1	
1058	728	Victrhlme R	980	- 3	2.8	16.8	
374	270	Yorks Chem	274		3.9	13.1	
340	236	Yule Catto	310		3.0	16.4	

DISTRIBUTORS

1007½	687½	ABA Lotst	94		5.8	9.7	
995	480	Adam & Harvey	490	- 15	5.1	9.3	
21	13	Alexanders	13½		6.5	22.2	
113	86	Applegrnt	91		8.2	9.8	
	4¾	Ass Br Eng	3½				
623	518	BBS Group	560	- 5	4.5	15.9	
38	31	Bisch	36				
244½	154½	Bearing Powe	175½	+ ½	9.6		
28	18	Bogod 'A'	25		3.4	9.2	
485	345	Bremnor	435		3.9	16.7	
21	10½	Bridgend Gpt	17		1.5		
96	78	Brit Fittings	91		4.9	12.3	
270	215	Caffyns	262		3.3	18.0	
68	54	Central Mtr	67		5.1	18.2	
60	35	Cook (DC)	58	+ 2	3.2	8.6	
309½	230	Corie	285	+ 1½	4.1	12.3	
156	116	Dag Motors	136		7.0	10.6	
598	503	Dimmocks El	504	+ 1	1.9	11.1	
501	399	Diplomat	399	- 21	4.5		
345	236	Electrocomponents	308	- 4	2.7	23.0	
247	158	Evered& Elec	232		2.3	18.0	
735	64	Evershitts	74		11.6	4.3	
130	87	European Mb	98		6.8	8.2	
449	286	Evans Halshaw	286		6.6	6.9	
695	512	Farnell Elect	620	+ 1	3.8	20.1	
72	48	Fits Indmar	66		6.2	10.8	
245	15	Gardnrs	18½	- ½	5.5	8.1	
361	16	Glendriveon	35½	- ½	1.1		
108	61	Gamrngy	94	+ ½	3.7	14.3	
191	146	Hams (Philip)	191		4.9	12.0	
201	142	Headlam	200	+ 4	2.6	17.5	
584	396	Hestys	499	- 1	2.5	18.6	
152	81	Holdcrs Tech	134		2.6	14.6	
163	88	ISA Intl	154		1.3	16.9	
430	226½	Inchcape†	236		7.6	12.9	
66	53	Jacks Wtsn	60		4.6	11.4	
187	142	Kwik-Fit	181		3.2	15.5	
358½	264½	Lex Service	264		5.1	13.7	
195	146	Lookers	149		6.4	8.2	
22	9	Mallard Grp	10½		5.7	14.2	
9½	5	Maldstone	8½		0.7	19.5	
73	36	Marshall Acst	42	- 1		6.6	
534	330	Marshalls	498	- 5	1.3	17.1	
268	78	Northerndus	265	- 1	0.9	19.6	
155	135	PCT	152		7.0	9.8	
283	225	Pennington	274		3.3	11.0	
186	132	Perry Gp	152	- 2	6.3	11.5	
146	126	Quadric Group	140		5.1	19.0	
198	160	REA	186	- 3	2.7	22.0	
3½	2½	Recon	3				
73	48	Rexson	52½		3.0	10.7	
6½	2½	Rors Gp	3½				
637	371	SEP Ind	60	+ 1	2.5	20.0	
21½	9½	Sellers	11			6.2	
38	15	Sthn Elect	38		3.3	11.9	
201	117	CME Micro	135		5.6	14.1	
39	17	Channel Hldgs	28		5.9	7.9	
36½	19	Chlorid(c)	23½		1.8	30.7	
80	61	Chrysalis	75		4.9	27.1	
208	105	Copyrtaxe	208		4.9	27.1	
170	41½	Cray Elect	47½	- 1½	6.6		
648	482	Cutchley	627	+ 4	2.0	21.3	
630	330	Dartks Br Srs	545	+ 5	0.5	29.3	
530	373	Delta	501	+ 3	3.0	15.1	
565	365	Domino	403		3.1	13.2	
72	61	Dowding Mth's	64		5.4	17.0	
3463	1465	Drtzb	2462	+ 13	0.7	32.3	
3340½	2490½	Electrocm 'B'	3265½	+ 21½	4.5	4.2	
347½	35	Elmcrs	311½				
1659½	850	Emerson 'B'	1490½	+ 12½	2.9	18.4	
104	64	Eurocopy	74		3.6	14.8	
575	370	Exotherm	571	+ 1	1.4	25.9	
542	375	Family Group	524		1.7	22.0	
254	165	Fenwick Com	175		4.6	11.1	
640	395	Forward Gp	640	+ 2	1.4	29.7	
100	40	Forward Tech	91		3.4	12.7	
341	269	GEC	305½	- 2½	4.7	14.6	
111	102	Gazeley	102	+ 1	6.4	11.8	
141	75	Ind Control	97	+ 1	4.6	11.8	
70	14	Intelek	29½			37.4	
320	220	Kenwood App	222	- 3	5.4	10.4	
107	50	Kode	101				
49	28	LPA Ind	34		6.2	24.2	
330	266	MTL Ind	278		3.2	15.4	
298	254	Marks-Sw	291	- 6	4.9	17.2	
63½	30½	Micromtec	52½		1.9	17.7	
439	231	Mmt	439	+ 16			
484	315	Oxford Inst	418	+ 2	1.8	16.5	
136	91	Penn Systems	131	- 1	3.8	20.2	
112	73	Peskl	101		4.2	16.3	
3321½	1906½	Philips Lmp rv	2481½	- 25	2.0	9.8	
349	217	Pitco	221		2.8	13.8	
207	207	Pitco 'A' Vtg	210		2.8	13.1	
153	116	Plasmec	142		3.5	11.4	
153	96	Pressac	136		3.2		
94	23	Prestwich	36	+ 6		14.3	
913	243	Pzlon	835	- 25	0.6	35.3	
37	15	Quadrant Grp	15		2.1	41.9	
295	212	Racal Elect	276	+ 6	2.2	15.7	
83	44	Radamec†	81		3.4	17.9	
141	101	Rainford	415	+ 7		23.3	
286	202½	Rotobro	279	- 2	2.4	13.8	
9	3	Scantronic	3				
58	34	Shearmasters	53		2.5	14.1	
47	34	Soundtrace	34		9.2	9.8	
258	183	Stores	228	+ 2	2.5	15.9	
9½	5	TDG Corpnts	7				
3468½	2466½	TDK	3365½	- 16½	1.0		
376	32	Telelink Tech	72			4.6	
160	57	Telemetrix	136	- 4	1.1	19.3	
102	83	TGI	98		3.7	12.5	
1048	342	Telspec	933	+ 6	0.5	52.2	
89	59	Thorpe FW	251	+ 3	3.8	12.6	
341	- 1	33	1143	184	130	TLG	162	- 2	1.9	17.6
38	16	Total Systems	22			22.9	
220	207	Tunstall	210		1.8		
567	350	Unitech	529		1.8	19.2	
137½	91	Vantis	121		1.0	16.3	
465	368	Vitec	436		5.8	15.0	
78	22	Waterbourne	73	+ 1		3.2	
187	122	Wheelcoe	183	+ 1	1.0		

ENGINEERING

347	167	ABM	320		1.8		
97	47½	APV	74½	- 5½	5.2		
248	101	ASW	101		7.8	4.9	
92	24	Aero Humble	30				
195	152	Alvis	169	- 2	10.9		
168	133	Ash & Lacy	158	+ 1	4.8	11.6	
643	538	Atlas Elevtr	643		4.3	22.5	
153	118	Ayrshire Metal	130		5.3	7.5	
183	79	Bl Group	100½	- ½	6.0	12.9	
187	112½	Babcock	152	- 2	2.2		
165	122	BWN	143		6.4	13.8	
107	77	Baynes (Charles)	99		2.8	17.2	
39½	23	Beales	37		2.1	6.3	
130	91	Bilton	95		7.0		
421	308	Bodycote†	408		1.8	20.8	
81	33	Booth Inds	42				
21	13½	Bowman	17½		4.2	11.0	
157½	122½	Britton'v	157	- 4½	1.7	19.9	
835	418½	Br Aerospace	800	- 17	4.1	29.9	
191	144	Br Steel†	169½	- 1½	6.4	4.8	
14½	10½	Brooks Tool	12½		1.9	29.6	
4	3½	Brunnt	3¾		1.9	13.1	
180	111	Burbage	111	- 4	6.8	10.7	
123	71	Burnsall	104		3.7	15.1	
334	236	Cardo Eng	318		3.9	17.2	
184	150	Castings	187		2.4	15.8	
168	145	Chamberlin Hll†	158		5.7	9.4	
488	286	Chemring	388		3.2	16.3	
198	138	Clyde Blowout	198		3.8		
492	302	Cobham'W	459	+ 2	2.4	27.9	
225	205	Comm (Av	845		1.7	5.9	
203	148	Concentric	171		5.9		
243	210	Cook (Wm)	223		4.6	9.2	
249	189½	David Brown	242		4.2	13.9	
133	88	Dobson Park	130		5.0	35.8	
417	300	ESI	375	- 4	4.3	13.5	
109	71	Elwell (Bt)	109	- 1	3.1	11.6	
94	71	Expamet	83		2.2	17.8	
182	142	Fairey	162	- 1	3.7	15.3	
271	215	Fed Conrd	271		3.3		
36	1½	Ferrum	1½				
367	22	Firth Hidgs	367			14.9	
177	127	GKN Ind	128	- 1	3.5	12.8	
199	117	Garton Eng	169		3.8	10.2	
378	292	Grynwood†	359	+ 2	5.2	12.8	
13½	10½	Graysheet	12½		9.1	8.8	
2	1½	Hadco Mdcln	1½		3.3	22.0	
200	133	Hadleigh	185	- 2	2.9	17.1	
219	135	Hall Eng	176	- 9	4.2		
178	133½	Halma	168	- 3	1.6	22.6	
57	39	Hampson Ind	48		5.8	11.0	
37	19	Hay Mountain	31				
113	86	Hill & Smith	113	- 6	6.4	14.2	
59	28	Hopkinsons	52		5.1		
32	8	Horn Gp	25	+ 4	2.0		
95	70	Howden	91		4.7	9.5	
219	162	Hunting†	202	- 4	6.2	18.9	
384	127	Impln Lloyd	143	+ 4	6.2	14.0	
18	14	Intl Indstry	16		2.9	12.8	
159½	5	Norcon	11				
276	163	Ingtor Lloyd	265		7.1	10.1	
184	127	Ingtor Lloyd	143	+ 4	6.2	14.0	
18	7½	Jessel	16		2.9	12.8	
101	61	JoneTec†	85		2.1		
184	127	Ingtor Lloyd	143	+ 4	6.2	14.0	
18	14	Jst Indstry	16		2.9	12.8	
159½	5	Norcon	11				
276	163	Ingtor Lloyd	265		7.1	10.1

Falling price sends UK to bottom of gas price league

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

GAS prices in Britain are now the cheapest of the leading economies, a new international study showed yesterday — though it gave warning that the gas market is in "chaos" and not all industrial and commercial gas users have benefited from price falls.

The study also suggested there will be more casualties among small independent gas companies as suppliers battle for market share.

In its latest annual survey of gas prices in leading countries, National Utility Services, the energy analyst, said "dramatically falling" gas prices in Britain had pushed the United Kingdom to the very bottom of the gas-price league table, with the cheapest gas prices of all the countries studied.

Looking at industrial users, the survey said gas prices in Britain fell 41 per cent in the year to September to 0.57p per kilowatt hour — the lowest of the 13 countries studied. Gas prices in the United States and Canada were closest to those in the United Kingdom.

United States prices showed a steep fall, with prices of gas into the US interstate pipeline down 25 per cent, leading to a 15 per cent drop in average gasprices to the consumer.

Italy again headed the gas price league table, at £2.08 pkwh, followed by Sweden at £1.94 and France at £1.41. Germany came next at £1.39. Finland saw the highest price rises of the countries studied, with gas prices going up by more than 17 per cent, against an inflation rate of less than 2 per cent.

In terms of the UK, the study said that the "unprecedented upheaval" in the gas industry resulting from the introduction of competition had forced prices down, as well as other factors including new gas fields coming on stream, delays in commissioning new gas-fired power stations and mild weather.

But NUS gave warning that not all large industrial and commercial users had benefited from falling prices. Andrew Johns, NUS director, said: "A large number of business consumers are locked into high-price contracts and are, therefore, at a disadvantage when compared with those who have recently negotiated contracts at the new cheaper rates."

But it said that more small companies trying to compete in the market could fail, and that further restructuring in British Gas could not be ruled out, since the opening of the gas market was now questioning BG's profitability and leading Ofgas, the industry's regulator, to struggle with "how to keep British Gas in business".

The study said that this marked a "complete reversal of roles" for Ofgas, after it had endeavoured to curtail BG and promote competition in the gas market. In placing Ofgas in such an "awkward position", the survey said that Ofgas "now must respond to British Gas's needs, acting on behalf of Goliath rather than David".

Strong showing on waste lifts Wessex Water

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

WESSEX WATER yesterday announced half-year profits up 18 per cent to £68.4 million, boosted by a strong performance from its waste-management services.

The good results enabled Wessex to raise the dividend by 13.6 per cent to 5p, above the sector average. Earlier this year the company restructured its share capital with a five-for-six share swap and the issue of new preference shares, to improve its dividend cover.

Group turnover rose 5.4 per cent to £120 million, while water services' costs were reduced by 3.5 per cent. Turnover at Wessex's environmental services subsidiary, UK Waste Management, co-owned with US-based Waste Management International, increased 26 per cent to £68.2 million, and raised profits 30 per cent to £12.1 million. Wessex received £6 million as its share of the profits.

Wessex was one of the few water companies that placed no formal restrictions on supplies during last summer's drought, although it compensated several hundred customers whose supply suffered owing to low water pressure. Nicholas Hood, chairman and head of the Water Services Association until December 31, said: "Some of the improvements in service to Wessex Water's customers have been ignored by those who lump all water companies together as an industry."

Wessex recently launched Partnership 2000, a project to improve customer relations, by forming local customer consultation panels, allowing customer directors on the water services board, improving compensation provision for poor service and campaigning for fairer charging methods, including the phased abolition of standing charges for non-metered services.

The company is also spending £13.5 million this year with the aim of reducing leakage to 15 per cent by 2005. Shares fell 4p to 336p. The interim dividend is due on April 9.

Prosperity in Europe boosts demand

MICHAEL SHARPE



David Coding, chief executive of Hozelock, investing £13 million in more plant

Hozelock taps new markets

BY IAN MIELL

HOZELOCK, the garden equipment manufacturer and distributor, announced strong growth in pre-tax profits and dividends in spite of a rise in raw material costs and last summer's hosepipe bans.

Hozelock specialises in watering products, but has seen strong growth in other areas, such as pond accessories. Hozelock is looking to further develop overseas markets, which grew strongly in the past year, said David Hargreaves, chairman. He attributed the growth mainly to the increase in leisure time and prosperity in Europe. The company subcontracted manufacturing tasks at an additional cost of about £1 million.

The company is investing £13 million on a new distribution centre and production machinery to ensure that additional production can be handled in-house.

In the year to September 30, Hozelock increased pre-tax profits to £9.3 million from £7 million. Turnover rose to £51.5 million from £38.6 million. Earnings advanced to 25.8p a share from 20.2p. The final dividend, due on February 14, is 6p a share, making a total of 8.7p, up from 7.35p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Sage maintains record growth run

SHARES in Sage Group surged 39p to 314p as strong organic growth and acquisitions helped the business and accounting software company to a 57 per cent jump in full-year profits. The Newcastle group continued its ten-year unbroken record of growth as pre-tax profits advanced to a better than expected £22.4 million (£14.3 million) in the year to September 30. Turnover doubled to £102.2 million, with the UK accounting for less than half of the total. There is a final dividend of 1.6p, payable on February 8, giving a total of 2.4p (2.18p), from earnings ahead to 13.88p (9.08p) a share.

David Goldman, chairman, said Sage is making encouraging progress in improving margins at Saari, its French accounting software company, while further improvements are expected this year as the group's three French businesses begin to work together more effectively.

Allied Colloids setback

ALLIED COLLOIDS, the speciality chemicals company, reported a downturn in profits to £20.3 million from £24.15 million for the half year to September 30 and warned shareholders that full-year profits were unlikely to match the previous year's total of £50.34 million. The company blamed substantial increases in the price of some raw materials, although it now appeared that prices had peaked. Some compensatory price increases had been negotiated. Earnings fell to 2.81p a share from 3.35p. The interim dividend of 0.58p a share compares with 0.55p previously and will be paid on February 16. The shares fell 3p to 124p yesterday.

Courtaulds joint venture

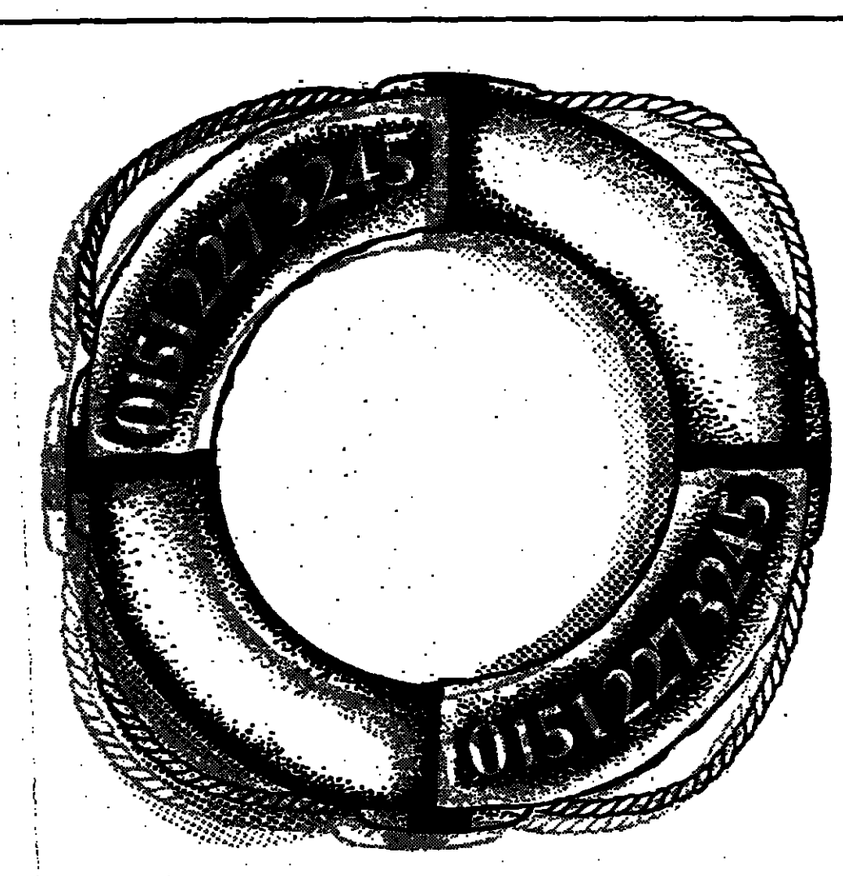
COURTAULDS, the British chemicals company, will emerge with a 28 per cent interest in a joint venture in polypropylene film with Hoechst of Germany. The venture was originally announced in July and covers the Courtaulds film operations at Swindon in the UK and Mantes-La-Ville in France, together with Hoechst's polypropylene film operations at Neunkirchen, Germany. In total 1,140 jobs are covered by the deal and the three plants will have a combined capacity of 120,000 tonnes a year, becoming the largest single producer in Europe. Courtaulds believes initial financial benefits from the merger will total £40 million.

T&S buys Paper Chain

T&S STORES, the newsagents and convenience stores group, is acquiring Paper Chain for £10.1 million, it was announced yesterday. Paper Chain has 109 neighbourhood stores, operating mainly in East Anglia and Essex, where T&S has a limited presence. The enlarged group will trade from 820 outlets nationally. To fund the acquisition and associated costs, T&S is raising £10.7 million through a placing and open offer of new shares. Shareholders are being offered ten new shares for every 101 shares held at 175p each. Existing shares fell 1p to 184p yesterday.

Boost for Shaftesbury

SHAFTESBURY is benefiting from strong tenant demand in its Chinatown Estate in London's West End. The property group boosted pre-tax profits by 55 per cent to £3.6 million in the year to September 30 and the portfolio generated a revaluation surplus of £2.6 million, raising net asset value by 11p to 111p per share. The company has been expanding beyond its Gerrard Street and Shaftesbury Avenue core and has increased its holdings in Covent Garden. The portfolio was valued at £101.5 million at the end of September and Shaftesbury is paying a full-year dividend of 1.5p, up from 1p.



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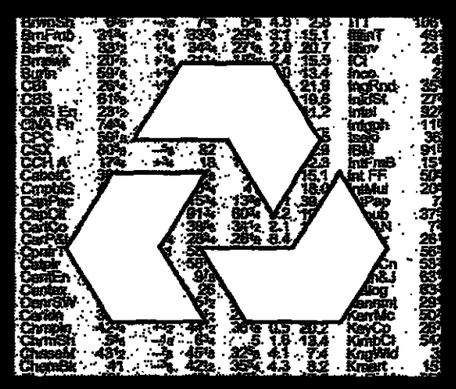
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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
01865 268 768

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gradual Amer	199.40	211.00†	+ 2.20	0.16
Gradual Equity	271.60	288.00	- 0.10	2.01
Gradual Euro	238.60	253.60	+ 1.10	1.12
Gradual Ind Bal	124.40	126.90		0.80
Gradual Gth	76.67	79.04	- 0.01	4.39
Gradual Japan	172.00	182.80†	- 0.80	-

AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
01209 553 231

General Acc	615.80	655.20	- 3.10	2.59
General Inc	529.10	562.90	- 2.60	2.59
Uk Growth Acc	418.20	442.80†	- 1.90	2.92
Uk Growth Inc	377.20	394.90†	- 1.40	2.82
Higher Inc Acc	784.60	(813.60)	- 3.10	4.15
Higher Inc Inc	455.50	482.70†	- 1.70	4.12
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	205.90	217.40	+ 0.30	5.54
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	94.66	99.98	+ 0.14	5.54
Nth America	342.60	364.50†	+ 2.30	...
Europe	317.30	337.60	- 0.50	0.88
Int Equit	85.52	88.22†	- 0.46	2.55
Int Fxdmkts Acc	111.40	118.60	- 0.20	4.72
Int Fxdmkts Inc	76.02	83.01	- 0.10	4.72
Global Opps	94.84	100.90†	- 0.40	0.22
Balanced Acc	60.26	64.22	- 0.20	2.63
Balanced Inc	57.76	61.45	- 0.18	2.63
Japan Acc	46.53	49.51	- 0.43	...
Pac Basin Acc	383.40	407.90†	- 2.29	0.97

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
0345 717 373

Bfds & Fixed Int	131.90	139.50†	+ 0.20	7.17
High Inc Equity	175.40	187.80	+ 0.30	4.20
Worldwide Bond	293.60	311.20†	+ 1.10	4.50
American Growth	340.80	364.30	+ 3.30	0.35
Asian Pacific	315.90	337.40	+ 2.10	...
Access & Earnings	287.10	305.40†	+ 2.10	2.84
Euro Capital Acc	169.80	178.90	+ 0.70	0.60
Extra Inc	44.81	47.67	+ 0.11	5.43
General	262.10	279.80	+ 0.30	2.99
Global Opps	58.64	62.36	+ 0.19	0.48
Japan	122.70	131.20	- 0.40	...
Managed Inc	47.47	50.50	+ 0.05	4.60
Mastermost	152.60	163.20	+ 0.40	1.45
US Emerging Cos	181.10	192.70	+ 2.60	...
Clerical	75.04	79.85	- 0.22	2.45
International	126.10	134.20	+ 0.10	0.60
Dividend & Growth	68.06	70.38	+ 0.03	2.47
Global Gwth & Inc	70.47	75.25	+ 0.03	2.68

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 220 0733

Uk Small Cos	1961.00	2036.00		...

ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0800 833 580

Amer Inc & Growth	55.54	57.69	+ 0.43	0.53
Cash	50.04	50.04†	+ 0.01	4.95
Emerging Mkts	65.73	69.57	+ 0.18	0.05
European	129.00	134.10		...
Exempt	1007.70	1060.20	+ 1.00	1.72
Extra Income #	48.11	51.54†	+ 0.03	6.69
Far East Emg Eqn	118.80	124.70	+ 0.30	0.59
Fixed Interest #	29.43	24.37†	+ 0.04	9.84
Fund Inv Tst	165.30	173.50	+ 0.20	0.97
Japan	184.90	192.30	- 0.90	...
Latin American	48.90	51.00	- 0.20	0.98
Pacific	80.26	84.27	- 0.15	0.31
Property Shares	62.61	65.72	+ 0.37	2.97
UK Emerging Cos	69.33	73.41	+ 0.07	1.69
Uk Growth	48.96	51.57	- 0.22	3.56
Aber World Port #	78.31	79.78†	- 0.01	2.05
Clinical	71.59	74.45†	- 0.10	2.37
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.71	50.71†		7.40

For AEGON see Matthews

AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0171 256 5866

Restill Property	97.22	104.20		5.16

ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD
01452 305 958

Annty Income	82.75	87.80	- 0.38	2.33
Income Builder Inc	75.65	80.48†	- 0.02	2.70

ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC
IFA dlg: 01793 510 366 Client dlg: 01793 514 514

Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	258.90	276.70	- 0.30	2.92
Capital	458.10	490.70	- 0.70	1.69
Balanced	751.10	809.30†	+ 0.10	2.46
Accumulator	1440.00	1539.00†		2.84
Income Trusts				
American Income	57.02	60.95	+ 0.42	2.92
High Income	434.10	453.30	- 1.20	3.41
Equity Income	236.90	255.30	- 0.60	3.26
High Yield	257.50	275.20†	- 0.40	3.16
Gilt Securities	34.50	36.52	- 0.08	5.81
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	188.70	201.70	+ 1.10	0.35
European Growth	42.69	45.49	+ 0.13	0.01
International	177.50	189.70	- 0.10	0.17
Japan	201.60	214.50	- 0.10	0.01
Pacific	397.60	425.00	- 0.20	0.01
Spcs. of America	539.40	574.40†	+ 6.00	0.40
Wrldw Accnt Val	52.82	56.46	- 0.04	0.21
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	572.60	612.10†	- 0.30	2.06
Cons & Gilt	44.71	47.79	- 0.01	4.85
Smaller Cos	189.90	203.00†	+ 0.30	1.09
2nd Smaller Cos	179.80	192.20	+ 0.20	1.26
Recovery	151.20	161.60†	- 0.20	1.62
Mkt Mkr & Gdty	170.30	182.00†	- 0.10	0.63
Classic Earnings	383.40	409.80	- 0.70	1.64
Technology	221.00	236.20†	+ 3.70	0.01
UK Special Sits	523.80	559.90†	+ 0.40	1.55

B S C E LIMIT TRUST MGMT LTD
01283 526 811

Crncbl Dst Pass	110.40	115.10		3.04
Foundn Pncpl Pass	66.09	68.86	....	1.44

BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 600 0083

Capital	76.56	81.45	- 0.63	1.79
International	67.33	71.63		..

BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD
0131 222 4242

America	300.00	322.70	+ 2.60	...
Bond	120.30	126.50	+ 0.10	6.92
Brit Smlr Cos	111.70	118.30	+ 0.10	1.63
Cons & Gen #	58.57	72.95	- 0.12	5.39
Europe	234.60	246.60†	- 0.40	0.62
Euro Smlr Cos	105.20	113.10†	- 0.40	0.62
Income Gwth	370.50	394.20†	- 0.50	3.66
Japan	324.70	345.90	- 0.40	...
Latin American	96.84	73.23	- 0.18	...
Pacific	107.20	114.00†		1.23
Uk Smlr Cos	59.55	62.29	+ 0.80	1.29
Japan Fd	680.20	701.70	- 1.20	...
Mngd Fd	190.40	202.50†	- 0.30	2.95

BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD
0171 489 8673

Bfd & Overs	336.80	354.50	+ 2.30	0.81
Capital Gwth	119.30	125.60	- 0.20	2.81
Wrwde Opps	205.40	216.30	+ 1.00	0.93

BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD
0181 534 5544

Balanced Trusts				
Bal Inv Fd Inc	390.00	408.20†	+ 1.10	2.56
European Bd Inc	95.12	99.53	+ 0.15	6.84
Exempt	77.84	83.03†	+ 0.13	4.04
Financial	93.34	99.82†	+ 0.54	2.43
500	471.40	505.60	- 0.70	2.62
General	298.10	319.20		1.55
Property	297.00	254.30†		6.49
Trustee	210.20	224.30	+ 0.80	2.24
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.00	100.00		6.05
Extg Income #	127.90	136.60	+ 0.40	4.91
Gilt & Fxd Int	58.68	60.64†	- 0.02	8.20
Income	566.40	605.80	+ 0.40	3.79
Income Builder #	66.83	71.28	+ 0.12	5.49
Intl Income	68.77	73.16	+ 0.34	3.17
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	133.20	142.00	+ 0.40	2.21
Leisure	149.60	160.00	+ 0.40	1.10
Recovery	446.00	477.10	+ 0.80	2.78
Smlr Cos Inc	48.24	51.73	+ 0.05	2.15
Special Sits	339.70	363.30	+ 2.70	1.51
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	181.70	171.90†	+ 2.00	0.29
Aust Acc	267.90	286.30	- 0.40	1.87
Aust Inc	151.50	172.60†	- 0.30	1.87
Euro Gwth Inc	168.90	177.20	+ 0.40	0.74
-do- Accum	180.30	191.30	+ 0.40	0.74
Japan & Gen Inc	164.40	174.10	- 1.00	...
-do- Accum	166.30	176.10	- 1.00	...
Japan Spec Sits	73.45	79.93	- 0.43	...
Latin Yield Inc	92.42	98.51	+ 0.46	0.74
Worldwide	185.40	196.80	+ 0.80	0.63

BARING FUND MANGERS LTD
0171 214 1004

American Growth	116.70	123.50	+ 0.90	...
Amer Smlr Cos	154.60	165.00	+ 0.80	...
Convertibles	95.32	99.30	- 0.02	5.70
Eastern	286.60	306.30	+ 0.70	0.30
Equity Income	87.82	94.13†	+ 0.48	3.80
European Growth	324.00	344.10	+ 0.70	0.60
Europe	270.80	287.60†	- 1.90	0.20
German Growth	80.64	85.46	- 0.09	0.50
Global Bond	68.45	73.16	+ 0.05	6.50
Global Growth	1329.60	1413.00†	+ 1.20	...
Japan Growth	203.20	216.20	- 1.00	...
Japan Smaller	152.60	162.30	- 1.40	...
Korea Trust	77.29	84.27	+ 0.50	...
Portfolio	138.20	147.80	- 0.50	2.20
-do- Accum	257.30	275.30	- 1.00	2.20
UK Growth	87.70	94.01	- 0.40	2.70
UK Smaller Cos	83.73	91.43†	- 0.28	2.50
Select Managers	81.70	87.59	+ 0.09	1.00

BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD
0171 256 3300

Intl Gwth Port Inc	84.91	90.38	- 1.20	...
Special Oppor Inc	58.77	62.52	- 0.03	...

BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD
0141 223 6020

Balanced Growth	125.80	133.12	+ 0.51	1.54
-do- Accum	143.04	152.32	+ 0.58	1.54
Smaller Cos	122.50	129.83†	+ 0.56	0.79
Higher Yield #	51.88	54.69	+ 0.14	4.30
American Gth Inc	87.27	92.35	+ 1.31	...
European Growth	148.38	157.02	- 1.00	0.62
-do- Accum	151.31	160.11	- 1.02	0.62
Global Bond Inc #	27.53	28.83†	+ 0.05	7.17
Mngd Pnsns Inc	47.47	50.21	+ 0.29	1.45
-do- Accum	48.66	51.50	+ 0.30	1.45
Int Spec Opps	143.76	148.95	- 1.54	...
Pacific Gth	135.63	143.74	+ 0.49	0.38
UK General #	86.15	91.18	+ 0.32	3.17
-do- Accum #	89.73	94.98	+ 0.33	3.17
Japan	99.15	63.67	- 0.39	...
Gilt & Fixed Int #	101.19	104.68†	- 0.01	8.59

BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD
0171 480 7216

Short Dated Gilt	67.74	68.60	+ 0.01	8.19

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
0161 837 5060

Envlron	168.80	179.60†	+ 0.20	1.80
Uk Growth	191.20	203.40	+ 0.60	2.04
Uk Income	142.00	151.00	+ 0.10	4.38

CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD
01707 822 100

Can Gen Dist	218.30	228.30	- 0.20	1.73
-do- Income Dist	115.96	122.90†	- 0.70	4.07
-do- Accum	394.70	396.60†	- 0.70	4.07
Gilt & Fxd Int	42.08	44.61	+ 0.03	8.10
Growth Units	231.40	247.50	+ 0.80	2.02
Bond	177.70	187.10		0.21
Intl Growth	233.90	248.70	+ 1.00	0.30
North American	233.60	248.70	+ 3.10	0.27
Far East	291.80	312.90	+ 1.40	1.08
Uk Smaller Cos	185.30	208.90	+ 0.60	1.48
European	89.39	95.09	+ 0.43	0.88
Japanese Growth	48.11	51.07	- 0.16	...
High Income	205.90	219.28	+ 0.30	3.99

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455

American & Gen	190.30	202.50	+ 0.10	...
European Inc	86.99	91.85	+ 0.16	1.01
Smaller Cos (4-11	92.25	98.14	+ 0.14	1.44
Growth	483.20	514.10	- 1.40	1.73
Industry & Growth #	437.00	464.90	- 2.30	3.89
-do- Accum #	638.40	677.10	- 3.30	3.89
Japan & Gen	70.51	74.87	- 0.17	...
Master Portfolio	(111.07	(134.79†	- 29.00	2.15
-do- Accum	(134.65	(138.27	- 34.00	2.15
Special Sits	113.20	120.50	- 0.40	1.84
High Yield	(14.03	(14.47)	- 7.00	4.42

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0171 606 0706

Cazenove Portfolio	94.11	100.00	- 0.03	2.54
American Portfolio	111.84	118.80†	+ 0.49	0.94
European Portfolio	110.71	118.30	- 0.01	0.48
High Income	52.14	52.24†	+ 0.04	8.00
Japanese Portfolio	69.38	73.82	- 0.16	...
Pacific Portfolio	145.42	156.37†	+ 0.42	1.43
UK Inc & Growth	97.12	93.32	- 0.66	3.65
Utility & Bond	57.60	59.29†	- 0.20	8.54

CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG
0171 588 1815

Inv Fund	721.54	732.44	+ 1.17	4.40
Fxd In Sec	156.56	157.18	+ 0.47	9.10

CGF CHARITY FUNDS
0171 588 1815

Investment Inc	721.60	732.50	+ 7.52	4.35
Investment Acc	231.76	232.29	+33.28	...
Fixed Int Inc	128.85	123.37	+ 1.27	8.69
Fixed Int Acc	214.43	215.28	+ 2.14	...

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 407 5566

Dedication Intl	90.75	95.83†		3.10
Ress Bio-Tech	39.89	43.06		...
Asian Ethical Tst	161.89	170.60†		0.73
City Fin Assets	77.55	81.43		2.05
City Fin America	103.52	108.70		...
City Fin Intl	86.72	91.06†		0.50
City Fin Japan	148.50	156.94		...
Friars Hse Cap	286.07	305.80		2.38
Friars Hse Inc	193.21	209.62†		4.65
Buckley Wrld Gth	134.92	143.01		...
Fairmnt Cap Gth	142.23	146.72†		...
Fairmount Intl	151.24	159.28†		...
J Sbl Inc/Gth Inc	56.48	59.31		1.97

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300
Emerging Markets — 54.63 — 57.96 — + 0.29 — ...

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0800 373 393

American Gwth	75.37	81.66	+ 0.51	...
Dragon Gwth	68.35	73.10	- 0.04	0.92
Equity High Inc	86.88	93.11†	- 0.53	4.11
Equity Income	121.45	130.15	- 0.74	4.11
Extra Income Inc	28.80	28.23	- 0.02	7.23
Extra Income Acc	27.89	29.38	- 0.02	7.23
European Gwth	57.98	60.72	+ 0.10	1.15
Evergreen	28.51	30.91		...
General Equity	94.48	100.22	- 0.57	2.92
Japan Growth	51.63	55.22	- 0.21	...
Pacigrowth Gwth	56.63	60.63	- 0.27	2.61
Pac Sm Cos Inc	33.06	35.19†	- 0.01	1.57
-do- Accum	34.84	37.09	- 0.01	1.57
Retirement Inc #	39.90	28.67	- 0.18	5.66
Special Sits	42.77	45.50	- 0.20	2.16
UK & Overseas	54.65	58.36	- 0.20	0.76

COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD
01634 898 000

Capital	74.90	78.02	- 0.11	1.95
Balanced	65.07	67.78	- 0.31	4.15

COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD
0181 686 9815
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)

Income Funds				
Equity Inc	170.09	180.95	- 0.45	4.84
Fixed & Convertible	40.95	43.56	+ 0.01	6.67
Monthly Inc Plus	49.70	52.87	+ 0.04	8.47
Preference Share	46.81	49.92	+ 0.05	7.81
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	129.53	137.80	+ 0.13	5.92
Managed Fund	73.05	77.71	+ 0.24	3.03
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	43.33	46.10	+ 0.11	1.76
-do- Accum	50.43	53.65	+ 0.12	1.76
UK & General	68.23	72.61	+ 0.26	2.72
-do- Accum	113.23	120.46	+ 0.31	2.72
UK Growth	165.78	177.40	+ 0.68	2.28
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	197.98	210.62	+ 0.42	0.11
Far Eastern Gth	132.34	140.79	+ 0.43	...
Global Bond	84.72	90.01	- 0.03	5.67
Japan Growth	118.30	125.85	- 1.86	...
North Amer Gth	211.89	225.41	+ 1.55	...
Oriental Growth	79.83	84.93	- 0.09	0.06
Worldwide Growth	71.44	76.00	+ 0.11	0.10
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.24	92.24	+ 0.01	6.17
Homemaster Fund	87.05	92.61	+ 0.11	1.63
Outlier Fund	144.48	153.70	- 0.11	1.98

CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD
0171 407 5865

Consistent Ut	33.16	35.43		3.35

COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD
0800 526 358

Growth	170.90	181.80†	+ 0.90	1.76
Income	71.27	75.82	- 0.26	5.77
European	65.51	69.69	+ 0.36	0.54
Recovery	166.50	177.10	- 1.00	2.09

CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD
0171 283 9494

Equity Dist	906.50	921.80†	....	3.47

CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD
01277 690 370

Fellowship Tst	93.38	99.34	+ 0.21	1.51
Income #	265.20	282.10	+ 0.60	4.24
-do- Accum #	(680.10	723.50	+ 1.50	4.24
Smaller Cos	198.80	211.40	+ 1.20	0.98
-do- Accum	344.60	380.20	+ 1.40	0.98
Inv Portfolio	90.63	96.41	+ 0.17	1.55
High Inc Port #	77.56	82.51	- 0.12	4.32

DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD
0171 410 0177

Euro Small Cos	1562.30	1603.50†		...
Japan Small Cos	1170.40	1193.80†		...
Uk Small Cos	1913.30	1962.90		...
US Small Cos	1938.10	1988.80†		...

DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS
0171 377 8818

Disc Inc	218.90	230.50		2.93

DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0131 315 2500

European Gwth	298.00	315.00	- 0.10	0.57
New Asia	220.50	234.70	- 0.40	0.24
Japan Growth	110.50	117.60	- 0.50	...
Jap Smlr Co	(447.10	(474.30	+ 1.10	...
Min Amer	357.90	377.40	+ 4.10	0.78
Uk Inc & Gth	231.20	245.80	- 0.40	2.67

EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD
01242 577 555

Uk Balanced Inc	155.50	165.40†	+ 0.20	1.62
UK High Inc Inc	164.50	175.00†	+ 0.40	4.12
-do- Accum	218.10	232.00†	+ 0.40	4.12
UF Prd & F I Inc	59.35	62.95†	+ 0.09	4.98
Envirnmntl Opps	92.51	98.50	- 0.18	0.85
UK Smlr Cos #	61.04	64.89	+ 0.13	0.81
Euro Income Inc	48.95	51.94	..	7.80

EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0345 090 525

American	154.20	163.60†	+ 0.60	1.07
Convertibles #	21.23	22.56†	- 0.02	6.21
Equity Income #	134.90	143.30†	- 0.50	3.70
EuroFund	52.39	55.57	- 0.06	0.36
Financial	50.28	53.40	+ 0.05	1.40
Growth & Inc #	255.70	262.30†	- 0.20	2.73
High Dlss #	168.80	178.40†	- 0.40	4.18
International	412.30	438.10	- 0.50	0.11
Int Cap Inc	98.44	105.10	- 0.30	2.62
Latin American	26.02	27.65	+ 0.04	...
Pacific	81.14	86.21	- 0.28	...
Prof High Inc	21.85	23.52		7.08
Tokyo	226.20	242.30	- 1.00	...
Uk Smaller Cos	252.40	268.20	+ 0.10	1.03

ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD
0171 242 0242

Eth Director Dlgs	99.84	105.33	+ 1.23	1.26
Growth Acc	238.62	254.23	+ 6.27	0.58
Income	185.36	121.33	+ 1.82	5.21

ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 373 7261

Endurance Fd	218.30	230.00		1.20

EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
01296 431 480

European	86.05	90.58	+ 0.33	1.89
Ethical Tst	45.02	48.44	- 0.15	1.30
Far Eastern	301.61	317.48	- 0.98	1.65
High Income	135.02	142.13†	- 0.45	4.79
Intl Growth	123.99	130.52	- 0.54	0.45
North American	136.88	144.09	+ 0.58	1.46
Pelican	128.58	135.40	- 0.58	3.27
Smaller Cos	87.30	70.84	- 0.28	0.21
Special Sits	87.86	92.50	- 0.38	3.21
Tst of Inv Trs	196.17	206.49	- 0.71	1.26

EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 407 5656

Smaller Cos Inc	198.85	211.54	- 0.19	1.33
Smaller Cos Acc	351.82	374.36	- 0.34	1.33
Recovery	49.85	52.82†	+ 0.03	1.52
Recovery Acc	50.82	54.06†	+ 0.03	1.52

EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD
01392 412 144

Capital Growth	88.84	95.27	+ 0.21	...
Fd of Inv Trs	48.49	51.72	+ 0.15	0.58
High Income #	41.10	44.05	- 0.06	10.44
Walnut	52.24	56.78	+ 0.05	...
Zero Preference	42.06	44.65	+ 0.11	...

FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
01273 203 707

Family Asset Tst	82.13	87.37†	- 0.19	3.26
Family Income Tst	45.18	45.18†	- 0.02	8.58
Family Trust	80.29	86.05†	- 0.58	2.31
United Charities	264.80	281.70†	+ 0.200	5.11

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Cash Fund	100.00	100.00	..	6.20
Bond Funds				
Gilt & Fxd Int	28.31	28.39	+ 0.03	7.04
Intl Bond	30.44	31.59	- 0.03	5.31
Income Funds				
High Income	25.50	26.79†	- 0.06	5.38
Income Plus	120.50	126.29†	- 0.56	4.13
Amer Eq Inc	57.66	61.10	+ 0.43	1.45
European Income	44.88	47.72	+ 0.11	2.40
Far East Inc	65.21	70.39†	+ 0.25	2.34
Global Convertible	24.81	26.14	+ 0.03	2.67
UK Dly Gtn	27.84	29.61	- 0.12	2.19
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	63.46	67.70	- 0.22	...
American	306.40	323.50†	+ 3.30	...
Amer Spec Sits	169.40	180.60	+ 2.50	...
Japan Smaller Cos	36.27	38.69	- 0.21	...
European	158.50	168.00	- 1.00	0.65
European Opps	78.04	74.48	+ 0.16	0.15
Global Priv	27.98	29.46	+ 0.06	0.76
UK Growth	106.90	113.70		1.26
Growth & Inc	159.40	169.50	- 0.60	2.26
Intl PEP	43.09	45.82	- 0.03	1.06
Japan Spec Sits	88.83	94.56	- 0.67	...
Japan	186.80	198.70	- 1.30	...
Managed Intl	323.50	344.50	+ 0.70	0.43
Moneybuilder	69.15	69.86	+ 0.10	...
Recovery	59.88	64.11	+ 0.23	1.43
South E Asia	169.30	180.80	+ 0.40	1.07
Special Sits	629.30	647.90	+ 4.70	0.71
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	112.07	112.07	+ 0.02	5.20

FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 814 2708

Balanced #	142.16	144.80		2.03
Inc Portfo #	88.93	90.57†	+ 0.09	3.48
Cap Portfo	153.99	156.30	- 0.30	1.45
Balanced Opps	133.16	134.78†		3.45
Growth Inc	34.03	34.78†	+ 0.08	1.24
Private Portfolio	452.16	460.90		1.85

FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT
Enq 0171 454 1454 Dlg 01277 291 010

European	122.90	130.60	- 0.10	0.60
Emrg Asian	154.50	165.40	+ 0.50	...
High Income	21.21	22.51†		9.99
UK Growth	117.90	126.00	- 0.70	2.32
UK Income	106.70	113.90†	- 0.70	4.29
US Smaller Cos	374.70	400.50	+ 1.40	0.36

FOSTER & BRAITHWAITE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD
01481 727 888

-do- Inv Tst Inc	77.57	81.57	+ 0.13	4.17
Investment Trust	99.06	105.11	+ 0.71	...
UK Smaller Cos	92.36	97.12	+ 0.40	0.98

FRANKLINSTON UNIT MGMT LTD
Enq 0171 328 6500 Dealing 0345 778511

American Growth	73.05	78.51	+ 0.24	...
American Portfolio	73.65	78.51	+ 0.24	...
Amer Smlr Cos	603.50	675.80†	+ 4.80	...
-do- Accum	645.50	690.40	+ 4.80	...
Capital Tst	357.80	358.20		1.36
-do- Accum	499.80	521.78		1.36
Cont Smlr Cos	88.56	90.93	- 0.02	0.63
-do- Accum	89.80	94.29	- 0.08	0.63
Dividend Tst	133.80	142.10		5.35
-do- Accum	275.60	293.10	+ 0.10	5.35
Emerging Markets	64.13	68.51†	+ 0.14	...
-do- Accum	64.26	68.77	+ 0.14	...
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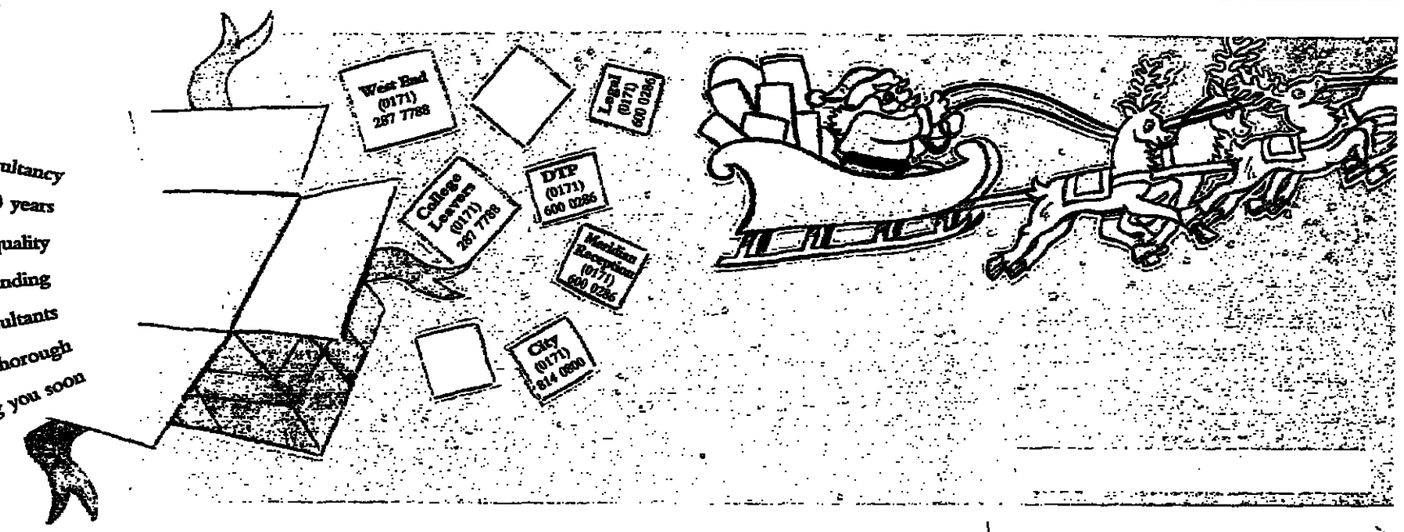
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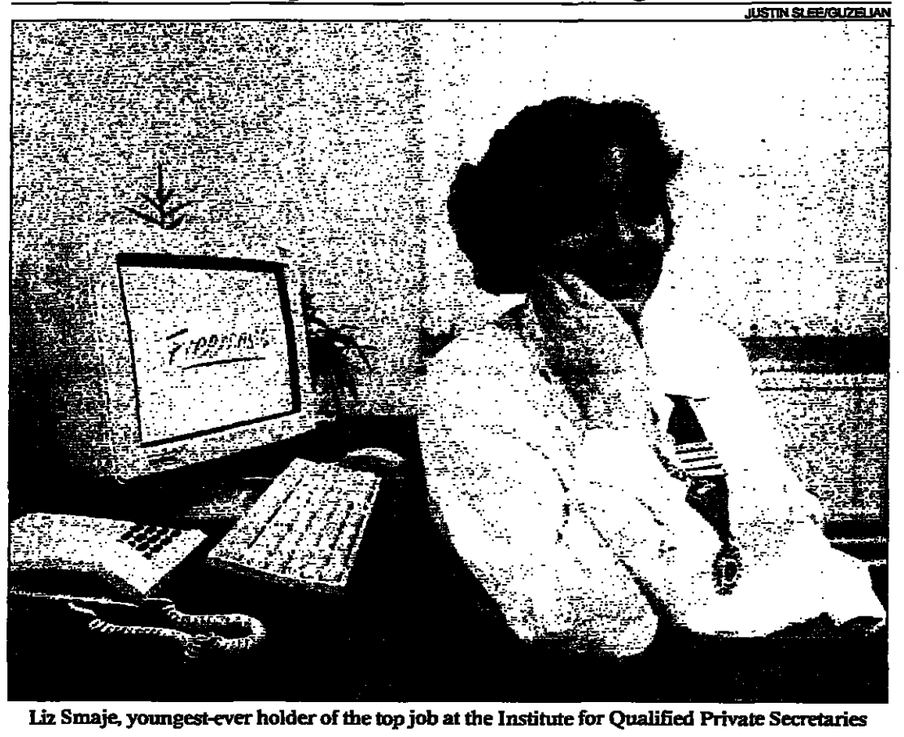
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The caring thoughts of Chairman Liz

Jennai Cox on the rise and rise of a self-effacing secretary from Leeds who speaks out for her colleagues nationwide

JUSTIN SLEE/GUZELIAN



Liz Smaje, youngest-ever holder of the top job at the Institute for Qualified Private Secretaries

When she left college and took her first job, with a chartered accountant, Liz Smaje boldly joined the Institute for Qualified Private Secretaries — but could not summon the courage to attend a meeting. Barely ten years later she finds herself, at 31, the youngest national chairman the IQPS has ever had.

Her peers are in awe of her achievement, yet Liz remains unaffected by her meteoric rise. As she puts it: "You look at yourself and you're quite ordinary really. You're just you."

When she did finally attend an IQPS meeting in 1986, she says: "I started thinking about all the things I'd like to see the Institute doing. Then I thought, why don't you go out and do it?" Within a year she was appointed to the Yorkshire and Humberside Branch committee and, at the first meeting, suggested more contact with college leavers.

"That was typical of me," she says. "I open my mouth and find I've put my foot in it." She was immediately made college liaison officer and spent the following months organising a student seminar.

"It was very character-building," she recalls. "I had to arrange it all in my spare time, then get up in front of hundreds of people and speak. It really helped my confidence."

Her initiative was soon recognised and by 1988 she was appointed branch chairman. Three years later the council of management, which oversees the running of IQPS, elected her a member and she was offered the job of liaising with the 14 Institute branches. This position took Liz to countrywide branch meetings, sometimes at only a couple of days' notice. She never said no, even though the work of all Institute members is entirely voluntary.

Her dedication was rewarded in 1994, when Liz was made a fellow and invited to become national chairman of the 3,000-member organisation.

"It took me by surprise a little," she says. But after she had spent a year learning the ropes as vice chairman, the members voted her in at the IQPS annual conference in October.

"However much you prepare yourself, it is still a bit of a shock," says Liz.

Almost all those working with her are older than Liz, but this does not daunt her. "You have to be strong in your leadership, yet not so strong that you override other people's ideas," she says. She has a little more groundwork to do before revealing her own ideas, but hints at marketing and membership growth.

The IQPS is the oldest and largest professional organisation for secretaries, PAs, administrators and lecturers in business studies. "By the Institute's 40th anniversary year in 1997, we hope to see a lot of changes," says Liz. "We need to be able to face the 21st century with confidence." Bringing forward ideas from other members and getting them put into practice will be part of that development.

Not only has Liz's personality blossomed thanks to the opportunities IQPS has given her, but she thinks her employers have benefited too. After four years in her first job with the chartered accountant, she went into the Home Shopping industry and is now executive secretary to the Information Technology Director at Freemans. She often travels up and down the country and works late into the evening, but nothing seems to tire her.

"I do most of my correspondence for IQPS in the evenings and planning at weekends when I have time to think," she says. "A lot of my time as chairman is spent thinking and planning for the future. It takes up every minute that I'm not at work."

Well, almost. In contrast to her fascination for modern technology — she enjoys experimenting with new software packages on her home computer — Liz has found time to delve into her family history. She discovered that the original Smajes were Jews who came to Britain from Holland in the 1840s.

Liz sees a fair amount of her immediate family, as she has lived with her parents in the same area of Leeds for 29 years. Her father is an engineer and her mother a pastor. "They call me their lodger because I work most of the time," she says. "I come from a family that was always involved in the community. It is a way of life I have inherited."

Liz's brother Andrew acts and directs at the local playhouse and, although she has no performing aspirations of her own, she loves watching old Cary Grant films and "anything with Robert Redford in". Her passion for the past dictates her reading material, which includes books on Elizabethan and Tudor times. She has just finished Lady Antonia Fraser's *The Six Wives of Henry VIII*. For escapism she prefers Mills & Boon or a holiday in the Lake District.

"I'm a bit of a loner," she says. "You spend all day with others, so you must have time to yourself."

Although she disliked school, Liz now stresses the value of continuous learning to those leaving college, and is involved in Freemans' in-house PC training college. "In secretarial work you have to stay one step ahead," she says. "If the opportunities are not there, you have to create them."

Liz has relied on her instinct a great deal too. If something feels right, she says, go with it.

What will she do when her three years as national chairman are up? "I suppose I'll become an elder statesman," she grins. But, for someone with so much commitment in a forever changing workplace, the opportunities will not end there.

● *The Institute for Qualified Private Secretaries: (0115 973 3235).*

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- The Chairman of the Arts Council of England is looking for an experienced Personal Assistant to take on what is a demanding role in an extremely busy, varied and high profile office, dealing with a wide range of people and topics. (Ref: CHAIRPA).
- The Director of Film, Video and Broadcasting is looking for someone to provide him with a comprehensive and efficient secretarial and administrative service. (Ref: FILMPA).
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The Arts Council aims to enable everyone to enjoy the arts. We are committed to an equal opportunities recruitment policy. Registered disabled people are currently under-represented within our workforce and their applications will be considered first.

THE ARTS COUNCIL OF ENGLAND

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■ FILMS 1

From the 31-year-old James Mangold's award-winning debut feature film *Heavy*...



■ FILM 2

... to Tom DiCillo's *Living in Oblivion*: indy directors are knocking at Hollywood's door

THE TIMES ARTS



■ OPERA

Fine singing and electrifying conducting make the Royal Opera's *Aida* a night to remember



■ TOMORROW

Can Maria Ewing give Covent Garden's *Tosca* a similar lift? Read John Higgins's verdict

Boulevard of broke dreams



Living in Oblivion, a hilarious film about the making of an independent film, brought its director Tom DiCillo to the attention of the big boys

As Hollywood loses its way, independent film-makers are picking up the thread, says **Carol Allen**

While Hollywood continues to throw big budgets at formulaic stories, much of America's creativity and innovation has been coming from the independents. A prime example of an outsider who made it to the mainstream is Quentin Tarantino, along with Bryan Singer and Chris McQuarrie (*The Usual Suspects*) and now, possibly, Gus van Sant, after *To Die For*. But keen indy-watchers will also have noticed little gems like Rory Kelly's triangular romantic comedy *Sleep with Me*, and David O. Russell's darkly funny tale of adolescence and incest, *Spanking the Monkey*.

Sometimes a new young film-maker will get lucky. Gary Fleder sent the script of his first film, *Things to do in Denver when you're Dead*, to Miramax — and they liked it so much they put up all the money to make it. But a more common scenario for the newcomer is the struggle to raise finance and then the struggle to get the film seen.

Such is the story of 27-year-old Edward Burns and his debut film, *The Brothers McMullen* (released in Britain this week). Burns, who, like his characters, is of Irish American stock, was working as a production assistant for the television show *Entertainment Tonight* ("I made the coffee, I drove the van"), sending his ideas to the Hollywood big boys, and getting nowhere. His father, a retired New York cop, encouraged him to make the film himself, gave him the first $15,000 towards his dream and turned producer to raise the rest from friends, family and acquaintances. Burns's parents also let him use their house as his main location, and his mother did the catering. The cast was drawn from New York's vast army of unemployed actors, with Burns himself playing the middle brother, and the crew was made up of *Entertainment Tonight* colleagues, all working for free over a period of eight months.

"The first scene at the graveyard was originally going to be a big wake," Burns says. "I couldn't afford even to rent a coffin, so I looked at the essence of the scene — two characters and their conversation — and said: 'We'll just go into a cemetery and shoot it'. We couldn't afford to pay the cemetery either, so we waited until it closed, slid under the fence, did it in one take before the sun set and ran out before the cops showed up."

Burns got his film in the can and roughcut for $25,000. After a round of rejections, it was eventually accepted for the Sundance Film Festival last January, where it won the Grand Jury prize. Burns was on his way. The film opened successfully in New York in the summer and he has now been given a $3 million budget by Fox to make his next. *She's the One* is another Irish-American family story. It stars John Mahoney from the television comedy *Frasier* and many of the cast from the first film, including Burns himself. It also has Robert Redford as its executive producer.

The Sundance Institute, founded by Redford in 1980 to encourage and support young film-makers, is an important element in the independent film-making scene. Singer and McQuarrie won the same prize as Burns in 1993 for *Public Access*. James Mangold, whose debut feature *Heavy* opens in Britain at the end of this month, won a Special Jury Award this year and worked on his next project *Copland* in one of the institute's workshops.

"Sundance was very important for me and my film," Mangold says. "It's also terrifying because, once you get over the elation of being chosen for the festival, there's the fear of not being one of the five or six films that emerge as the better ones. You have to achieve that in order to make it out into the theatres and get more work."

Tom DiCillo, whose first feature *Johnny Suede* was virtually ignored at Sundance a few years back, made his breakthrough this year, winning the Best Screenplay award and distribution for *Living in Oblivion*, his vividly comic revelation of the sheer hell of making a low-budget independent movie. It also enabled him to raise finance for his next film, *Box of Moonlight*, starring John Turturro.

"Sundance has become the place to launch an independent film in America," DiCillo says. "Redford's done a tremendous job. It's pretty spectacular that a Hollywood star has taken the time and put his own money into creating this anti-Hollywood thing."

DiCillo, now 42, has been struggling to make his films for nearly 20 years. In order to make *Living in Oblivion* he, like Burns, had to rely on his actors working for deferred payments. The 31-year-old Mangold, on the other hand, was taken up by the Disney organisation when he left college ten years ago, but quit in order to make films his way. Set in a small town in upstate New York, *Heavy* is a low-key, character-driven story about a middle-aged man who looks after his mother and is obsessed with a young woman who works in their bar.

> "No one gives a damn about genuine passion"

"I wanted to make a film about the world I grew up in," Mangold says. "The people who live their lives and do their jobs, have joys and sorrows and struggle with the same problems that other people all over the world struggle with.

"Someone asked me if I wouldn't have preferred to make a movie which exploded on the scene. But another road picture about psycho killers in sunglasses is not the way to attract attention to yourself right now. There's a plethora of movies filled with that kind of darkness and nihilism."

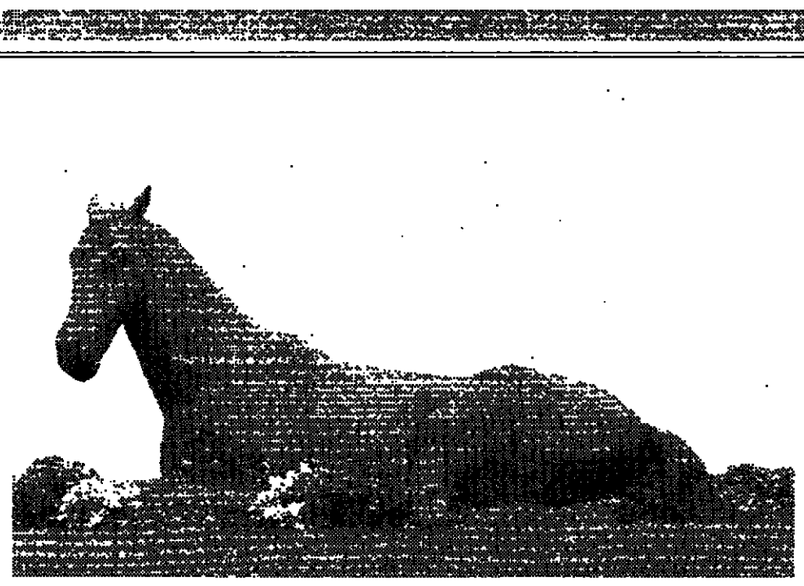
DiCillo, meanwhile, has noticed a disturbing pressure on independents to follow that dark nihilism. "It seems to be a requirement now for all scripts to be Tarantino-style," he says. "Can you imagine what that's like, going into a meeting about your script and hearing: 'Hey, no one gets killed here. Can you Tarantino-ise it?'

"We live in a time when no one gives a damn about genuine passion. What we're interested in today is the fake. And, much as I admire the technical skill of a film like *Pulp Fiction*, it's ultimately about nothing, and it infuriates me to see all that public and critical adulation about something that is merely an exercise in technique.

"I know that Tarantino is the Elvis of directors – and that's great — but there got to be another way to get people into the theatre without threatening to cut off their ears."

Mangold feels that the roles of the independents and of mainstream Hollywood have changed places in many ways. "It used to be that Hollywood produced these handsomely crafted dramas and independent movies were the subversive insurgent voices from the underground," he says. "Now Hollywood is so busy trying to do the voice of the underground I think it's the job of the independents to start telling good, earthy stories.

"That's one thing about *Heavy*. It's a story that Hollywood could easily have told — and, in other times, would have."



Dame Elisabeth Frink, RA (1930-1993). *Sleeping Horse, 1972*, signed, bronze, 104.1 by 203.2cm (41 by 80in). One of an edition of four casts. Estimate: £100,000-150,000

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For further information please contact Susannah Pollen on (0171) 408 5388 or Mark Adams on (0171) 408 5381 Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1A 2AA

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Aida
Covent Garden

That hoary old cliché about needing only the four best singers in the world for *Trovatore* would better apply — if it applies at all — to *Aida*. There is melodramatic action aplenty in the earlier piece: *Aida* is Verdi's most classical opera, a near-static drama of situation expressed through orchestra and voice.

The Royal Opera's modest, decidedly subfusc production was new last year and is no great shakes — you can't really do *Aida* in a box set on the cheap — but the fact that Monday's performance was among the most exciting I can remember is because it was thrillingly conducted by Daniele Gatti and very, very well sung, by today's standards if not by those of a century of performance and recording history.

Gatti took nothing for granted. The most bland marches, the friskiest passages of dance music, all were treated with the same understanding, the same care for shape and phrase as the grandest dramatic paragraphs. His reading was also fiercely dramatic, surely paced, always with an eye to the overall shape of each scene.

The Nile act we know to be one of the greatest passages in all Verdi, and so it emerged, but the Judgment scene that follows and can sometimes hang fire was spine-tingling in its musical thrust. Drama of situation, drama of ritual maybe, but under Gatti it was ritual that was made to matter at a human level.

All this and voice, voice, voice. The great things about Sharon Sweet's Aida are absolute security and richness of tone. Her top Cs emerge without a hint of strain and the sumptuous richness of sound extends throughout the range, with no phoney chest register tacked on to the bottom — it's all the real thing.

She shapes her music with natural grace, and I empathised with her impatient shrug and exit when the end of her second run of "Numi pietà"s was interrupted by a noisy scene change.

The Bolshoi mezzo Nina Terentieva boasts similarly even tone: her Amneris is blessedly free of the neo-baritonal barks to which some resort. The treacherous "Vieni"s at the opening of the second act are easily within her voice.

Her striking stage presence and regal bearing make her as much a natural for the role as her breath control does for coping with the long, long lines (Sweet could lend an ear in this respect).

And it was breath control that impressed most with Simon Estes's Amonasro. With Gatti encouraging him at every inch of the way, he sang the soaring "Pensa che un popolo" in the Nile duet without a break, a moment to lift you five feet out of your seat. (Brand X baritones are inclined to insert an "expressive", "dramatic" gulp for breath in the middle.)

Michael Sylvester is a real tenor — bright, "pinging" sound, no baritonal pretensions and no tenorial bad habits in the way of sobs and aspirates. He is also a real musician, responding to each phrase with style and pliancy. There can be few rivals to his Radames today.

His voice momentarily dried in the final duet, but he came back fighting with a succulent soft B flat at the close. Next time he could try it at the end of *Celeste Aida*.

Peter Rose's Ramfis was roundly sung, and wonderfully mad (good eye make-up).

RODNEY MILNES

Royal National Theatre
Mother Courage and her Children
by Bertolt Brecht
In a new version by David Hare



"**Brecht's** greatest play has received one of the greatest productions it has ever had, or is ever likly to have, from **Jonathan Kent... Dian Rigg** gives the most tremendous performance of her career
Sunday Times

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Box Office 0171-928 225
Olivier Theatre: Tomorrow, Fri 8, Mon 11, Tues 12 Dec at 7.15pm, Sat 9 Dec at 2.0pm & 7.15pm & continuing.



■ THEATRE

George Bernard Shaw's least performed play proves unedifying even in a fine new staging



■ CHOICE 1

The pianist Barry Douglas opens his own chamber series

VENUE: From tonight at the Wigmore Hall

THE TIMES ARTS



■ CHOICE 2

Top counter-tenor Michael Chance stars in Purcell's *Fairy Queen*

VENUE: Warwick tonight, Birmingham tomorrow



■ CHOICE 3

Pepsi Lawrie Demacque stars in a tribute to Kander & Ebb

VENUE: Tonight at the West Yorkshire Playhouse

THEATRE: Revived Shaw at his most crusading; and reviving the Crusades at the Shaw

Pith of poison in this monkey's nut

The Simpleton of the Unexpected Isles
Orange Tree

When Shaw's *Simpleton* had its disastrous world premiere in the New York of 1935, a critic compared its author with "a dignified monkey who climbs a tree and pelts us with edifying coconuts". The review clearly irked the old man; but it does evoke the play's odd, erratic feel and does help explain why it is the least frequently revived of GBS's full-length works. After catching and intermittently enjoying the coconut at Richmond, I have only one serious quarrel with the simile: the white mush inside is not very edifying.

If you cannot see Sam Walters's admirably simple, resourceful revival, read Shaw's preface and you will see why. This essay is even uglier than the introduction to *On the Rocks*, which praises Stalin's Cheka and recommends "extermination" for those guilty of "incorrigible social incompatibility". Awed by Djerjinsky's pluck in personally shooting an inept stationmaster, Shaw now argues that if a citizen's life "costs more than it is worth to the community, the community may painlessly extinguish it," suggesting tribunals be set up to make such assessments.

But was the 79-year-old Shaw more than an armchair monster and bloodthirsty fool? Yes, a bit. Is *The Simpleton* merely an argument for a socialist "Inquisition", as the preface calls it? No, not quite. Mostly it ambles agreeably along, evoking first British India, then a utopian island some time in the future. An incidental amusement is Shaw's view of the 1950s and 1960s from the stance of 1935: the Empire ruled from Delhi, the Irish leading the protests when that "tight little island", England, declares UDI.

The cast is headed by Kate O'Mara as a grave Indian priestess and Raad Rawi as an even graver priest. They set up a commune with a pair of liberated British bureaucrats and their wives, eventually producing four pretty, vain children, who perch on plinths and symbolise Love, Pride, Heroism and Imperialism. The appearance of a dim Anglican curate, who spawns 117 babies, pushes the discussion from the relation of West and East to the contradictions of Eros, with references to English chauvinism and war.

This is harmless enough stuff — Shaw being conventionally unconventional, you might say — but then comes the big twist. The Day of Judgment arrives in the form of a podgy angel, who announces a sort of selective damnation. Love, Pride, Heroism and Imperialism promptly snuff it, as do bankers, politicians, doctors and other "useless people, mischievous people, selfish somebodies and noisy nobodies". This is not the end of the world, "but the end of its childhood and the beginning of its responsible maturity".

The tone is still witty and diverting, but the tenor unmissable. What the monkey Shaw was throwing at his contemporaries as the Decade of the Dictators rose to its climax was not a couple of coconuts. It was intellectual poison and it was death.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

MARILYN KINGWILL



Raad Rawi plays a priest, Kate O'Mara a priestess in the resourceful Richmond production of one of GBS's oddest, least palatable offerings

Look back in muted anger as a Saracen remembers

Ousama
Brixton Shaw

WHATEVER I learnt at school about the Crusades has become hazy but I feel sure they were held up to us as a Good Thing, hastening the end of the Middle Ages by introducing ginger and geography and geometry to our shores, though I don't suppose the arrival of the last inspired much gratitude in me.

What we introduced to the Saracens was not mentioned, and indeed not much that Western Europe could offer was of the faintest use to a culture considerably more advanced and attractive.

We are given a glimpse of the Crusades from the other side of the battlefield in this one-man show by Sara Salih, a 26-year-old of Scots/Arab ancestry. The speaker is Ousama ibn Munqith, a princely diplomat and scholar who makes half a dozen appearances in Runciman's *History of the Crusades* and was clearly adept at surviving the turbulence of the 12th century, managing to reach the age of 93.

The Brixton Shaw Theatre occupies the upper floor of an impressive church in the Greek Revival style, and its square stage is snugly flanked by rows of red seats on three of its sides. In Corin Redgrave's production the stage becomes a part of Ousama's Syrian garden, shaded beneath a canopy, where bowls of dates and other light delicacies have been placed on the elegantly fretted tables. It is Ramadan, but in a few moments the sun will have set and another day's fasting will be over.

Nadim Sawalha's elderly Ousama is wondering how to occupy the time before this moment arrives. Shall he tidy up? He moves a cushion. Shall he tell us the names of the herbs on the dishes? He does so. Soon he is sharing with us the adventures of his youth, fighting Raymond of This, Baldwin of That, surviving siege and slaughter. His voice is gentle, caressing, ironic when describing the catastrophic effects of Frankish medicine. He only reveals anger when remembering how Christian soldiers burnt his books to warm their hands, and even there his emotion is fiercely contained: a sudden gravity in his speech, a twitch in a cheek.

Redgrave's atmospheric production is delicately assisted by the sounds of harness bells, doves, and voices far off, designed by Dave Tinson to float across the background of the story. The eye lingers with pleasure on the exotic details of Anthony Lamble's set.

Sawalha's performance is attractive but the author has not organised her material to continue the rhythm of small climaxes to the end of the 80-minute show. Although Ousama criticises the Franks for acts of boorishness and bigotry, I could have done with more extensive mention of atrocities to season the dish. If Ousama's autobiography does not contain anything suitable, Salih could have lifted something from elsewhere. Only Sir Steven Runciman would know.

JEREMY KINGSTON

LONDON

SMITH MEMORIAL: London Musici offers the last of its "Music, Song and Dance" series tonight, with another eclectic programme of 20th-century British music. Highlights include commissioned pieces — Julian Anderson's *Three Parts Off the Ground*, performed with members of Rambert Dance Company, and Keith Burstein's *A Live Flame*, composed in memory ofJohn Smith MP.
St John's, Smith Square, SW1 (0171-222 1061). Tonight, 7.30pm.

BRAVURA PIANISTS: Forget the boughs of holly tonight: the Queen Elizabeth Hall decks itself with the penultimate recital in Richard Goode's acclaimed Beethoven Sonata series. Over at the Wigmore, **Barry Douglas** reveals himself as a chamber musician; tonight's series opener features Poulenc, Elgar, Brahms and Beethoven, with violinist Raphael Oleg. **Peter Donohoe** makes up the triumvirate, when he joins the London Philharmonic back at the South Bank for another concert in the series of music commemorating the end of the Second World War.
QEH, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). 7.45pm. **Wigmore Hall**, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141). 8pm. **Festival Hall**, as for QEH. 7.30pm.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

ELSEWHERE

COVENTRY. Nicholas Kraemer and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra are joined by a starry cast and the Ex Cathedra choir for two performances of Purcell's The Fairy Queen. Soloists for the magical semi-opera include counter-tenor Michael Chance, fresh from English National Opera's own production.
Warwick Arts Centre, University of Warwick (01203 524524). 7.30pm. Tommorow in **Birmingham**, Symphony Hall (0121-212 3333).

LEEDS. Opening night for singers Sharon D. Clarke, Pepsi Lawrie Demacque and Fiona Hendley, teaming up with RJC Dance Theatre for a run of **The World Goes 'Round**. The snazzy musical tribute to Kander & Ebb pays homage to the creators of *Funny Lady*, *Cabaret*, *Chicago*, and *The Kiss of the Spiderwoman*. Jude Kelly directs. Courtyard, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Quarry Hill (0113-244 2111). Tonight, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, contact box office for mat schedule. Until Jan 20.

MANCHESTER: Kent Nagano takes to the podium for tonight's **Hallé Orchestra** performance of Richard Rodney Bennett's *Partita for Orchestra*, one of the works in the BT/Association of British Orchestras series. The programme also features pieces by Mendelssohn, Beethoven and Brahms, and is repeated (minus the Bennett) tomorrow in Leicester.
Free Trade Hall, Peter Street (0161-834 1712). 7.30pm. **De Montfort Hall** (0116-254 4444).

LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum: Westminster Kings and the Medieval Palace of Westminster (0171-636 1555) . . **Hayward:** Art and Power: Europe under the dictators 1930-1945 (071-928 3144) . . . **National Gallery:** Paintings from National Trust Houses (0171-747 2885) . . **National Portrait Gallery:** Richard and Maria Cosway (0171-306 0055) . . . **Royal Academy:** David Hockney Drawing Retrospective (0171-439 7438) . . . **Tate:** Art Now 4 Matroslaw Balka (0171-887 8000) . . **V & A:** Jain Art from India (0171-938 8500)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
◪ Some seats available
☐ Seats at all prices

☐ **A CHRISTMAS CAROL:** Revival of Ian Judge's popular but over-sweet production. Clive Francis plays Scrooge
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Now previewing, 7.15pm. mat today, 2pm. Opens tomorrow, 7pm, until Jan 13.

■ **COMPANY:** Sheila Gish and Adrian Lester in the cast of 14 for Sondheim's bittersweet musical on love, relationships and staying single. Sam Mendes directs
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Now previewing, 7.30pm. Opens Dec 13, 7pm.

☐ **HOBSON'S CHOICE:** Final week for Leo McKern in the title role of Harold Brighouse's warm-hearted comedy. Nichola McAuliffe and Graham Turner (who are remaining in the cast) are excellent as daughter and son-in-law.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (0171-494 5045). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sat, 3pm.

☐ **HYSTERIA:** Henry Goodman plays Freud, with Tim Potter as Salvador Dali, in Terry Johnson's surreal, double award-winner, directed by Phyllida Lloyd in the Royal Court Classics season.
Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

◪ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS:** Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing Inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.15pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm.

◪ **KNIVES IN HENS:** Philip Howard's Traverse Theatre production of new David Harrower play set in Scotland's distant past, "a powerful story of liberation through forbidden love".
Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (0181-743 3388). Mon-Sat, 8pm.

◪ **MACK AND MABEL:** Jerry Herman's musical set in early Hollywood. Fine songs, though a troublesome book. Howard McGillin and a delightful Caroline O'Connor.
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

◪ **RICHARD II.** Fiona Shaw plays the puppyish king. This daring piece of casting succeeds, as does the whole of Deborah Warner's production.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) Tonight-Sat, 7pm

◪ **THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE.** A witty evening of song, dance and sketches to do with William S. Assembled by Christopher Luscombe and Malcolm McKee
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 5.30pm.

◪ **THREE TALL WOMEN:** Maggie Smith, Sara Kestelman and Samantha Bond in Edward Albee's fascinating play about his adoptive mother.
Wyndhams, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736) Tue-Sat, 8pm. mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

☐ **THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS:** Jeremy Sinden plays a serenely smug Toad in the now annual return of the National Theatre production.
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 6855). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, contact box office for mat schedule

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

NEW RELEASES

◆ **CANDYMAN 2** (18): Feeble adventures of the urban bogeyman created by Clive Barker. With Tony Todd, Kelly Rowan. Director, Bill Condon.
MGM Trocadero (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

ELISA (15): Overwrought French tale of a runaway kid who seeks out her father. With Vanessa Paradis, Gérard Depardieu. Director, Jean Becker
MGMs: Piccadilly (0171-437 3561) **Swiss Centre** (0171-439 4470)

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER (15): Actors struggle to mount *Hamlet*. Over-manic comedy from Kenneth Branagh, with Michael Maloney, Joan Collins
Barbican (0171-638 8891) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914666) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

◆ **MAD LOVE** (12): Shallow tale of runaway lovers, with Drew Barrymore and Chris O'Donnell. Director, Antonia Bird.
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGM Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

◆ **MURDER IN THE FIRST** (15): Flashy but absorbing Alcatraz drama, with Kevin Bacon, Christian Slater and Gary Oldman. Director, Marc Rocco
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

MY DARLING CLEMENTINE (U): John Ford's wonderful 1946 western about Wyatt Earp, with Henry Fonda, Linda Darnell and Victor Mature.
Renoir (0171-837 8402)

◆ **THE SANTA CLAUSE** (U): Divorced dad becomes the new Santa. Broad family comedy with a human face, featuring Tim Allen. Director, John Pasquin.
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

SISTER MY SISTER (15): Modest chamber piece about a stifling French household. With Joely Richardson, Jodhi May and Julie Walters. Director, Nancy Meckler
MGMs: Haymarket (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Rd** (0171-636 6148)

CURRENT

◆ **GOLDENEYE:** (12) Pierce Brosnan twinkles as the new James Bond. A rip-roaring thriller with a sense of humour, with Sean Bean. Director, Martin Campbell.
Barbican (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Notting Hill Coronet** (0171-727 6705) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426 915683) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

◆ **TO DIE FOR** (15): Delicious social satire about a television weather girl's murderous lust for glory. Gus Van Sant directs Nicole Kidman and Matt Dillon
MGM Haymarket (0171-839 1527) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332) **Warner** (0171-437 4343) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

A MAJOR EXHIBITION of Russian & soviet art at the Roy Miles Gallery, 29 Bruton Street, W1. 0171-495 4747

LEFEVRE GALLERY 30 Bruton St, W1. 0171-493 2107. An exhibition of MODERN BRITISH ARTISTS 1900-1945. 27 Nov-20 Dec. Mon-Fri 10-5.

PARKIN GALLERY 11 Motcomb St, SW1. The New English Art Club 1886-1924. Tel: 0171 235 8144.

Exhibition Until to 31st December CHRISTMAS MISCELLANY 1240 - 1930 Selected works £25 - £3,000 The Schuster Gallery 14 Maddox Street, London W1 Tel: 0171 491 2208 Fax: 0171 491 9872

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British Rail Charing Cross to Blackheath (20 minutes) Until 6th January 1996.

ART GALLERIES

MARLBOROUGH FINE ART 6 Albemarle St, W1. 0171-629 5161. CHRISTOPHER BRAMHAM. Until 26 January. Mon-Fri 10-5.30. Sat 10-12.30.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF OIL PAINTERS, MALL GALLERIES, The Mall (Nr.Admiralty Arch) London SW1. 5-20 December, 10-5 daily. Most works for sale. 0171-930 6844.

SPINK. The Botanical Garden. Watercolours by Gillian Barlow. 29 Nov-22 Dec. Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm, Tues 9am-7.30pm. 5 King St SW1.

FEATURE

SADLER'S WELLS 0171 713 6000 MOMIX in BASEBALL "Delightful entertainment" Until 9th Dec at 7.30pm Sat mat 2.30pm

OPERA & BALLET

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ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 304 4000 for Box Off & Standby info. Tickets available on the day The Royal Opera Tonit, 7.00 (Last Night) MATHIS DER MALER Fri, Tue 7.30 AIDA Mon 7.30 TOSCA The Royal Ballet Tomor 7.30 Balanchine's APOLLO/MacMillan's SIDE SHOW/Balanchine's DUO CONCERTANT/Page's FEARFUL SYMMETRIES Sat 7.00 (World Premiere) TWYLA THARP ROSSINI BALLET English Bach Festival Sun 7.00 LE BOURGEOIS GENTILHOMME/DIDO AND AENEAS

ART GALLERIES

MacConnal - Mason CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION Paintings under £5000.
15 Burlington Arcade, London W1.
14 Duke Street, St James's, London SW1.
Tel: 0171-839 7693.

THEATRES

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WHITEHALL 369 1735/344 4444/ 420 0000 "BEST NEW MUSICAL IN TOWN...BRILLIAN



■ MUSIC 1

Could this 25-year-old conductor be running the best choir in Britain?



■ MUSIC 2

An austerely beautiful string quartet by Judith Weir is given its London premiere

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ MUSIC 3

... and the Wigmore also welcomes back the superb young Czech mezzo Dagmar Pecková



■ MUSIC 4

... while a mini-festival of Bartók comes to a fine conclusion at the Barbican

Richard Morrison discovers the gospel truths about the all-conquering London Adventist Chorale

Praise the Lord, and beat the competition



The London Adventist Chorale during last year's Sainsbury's Choir of the Year finals

Very few CDs change your life. This one has already changed mine. Only in a small way, you understand, and probably only temporarily. Soon I shall be my normal, stressed, brittle self again. But at the moment I ooze deep inner tranquillity. A Buddhist would say I have glimpsed the path to *nirvana*. My wife says it's senility. I don't mind. I have discovered a perfect choir.

This is something of an obsession. I find a perfect choir every three or four years, and for weeks afterwards I bore friends, relatives and passing double-glazing salesmen by playing its recordings till the grooves melt.

I started with the exquisite Haydn masses recorded by the choir of St John's College, Cambridge, under George Guest in the early 1970s. Never before had I heard a church choir that sang with the grace and shading of a great string quartet. Then came a long and passionate obsession with the Monteverdi Choir — the British pro-am ensemble, founded by John Eliot Gardiner, that shook the musical world with its precision and brilliance, especially in Baroque music.

After that I searched around for superb foreign vocal groups. Robert Shaw's Atlanta Symphony Chorus — a kind of musical Mormon Tabernacle Choir — knocked me out with a recording of Beethoven's Choral Symphony that radiated glorious humanity. Then the Glinka State Choir of St Petersburg toured Britain, performing with epic fervour the religious repertoire of vespers and chants that had been banned during the Soviet era. The sound was electrifying: chords that rumbled from subterranean depths and hung in the air for 20 seconds or more.

I never joined the 1980s craze for Bulgarian ladies' choirs: too chesty and wobbly for my liking (their voices, I mean). Nor, at the other extreme, have I always admired the ultra-pure but emotionally sterile sound of King's College, Cambridge. But, like everybody else who watched Nelson Mandela's inauguration, the Queen's visit to South Africa or the Rugby World Cup, I became intoxicated by the rhythmic vitality and beguiling harmonies of Ladysmith Black Mambazo and the other great African choirs.

Now I find a perfect choir almost on my doorstep. And my delight in discovering the London Adventist Chorale is diminished not one whit by the fact that several million people have discovered it before me — because the Chorale won the televised Sainsbury's Choir of the Year competition this year. I wish I had watched. The truth is that I tried, but every time I switched the programme on I seemed to see balding men in green blazers singing barbershop numbers while attempting improbable routines. Call me unadventurous, but I do like my choirs to be more or less stationary.

> "This choir seems to shimmer with sensuality"

Anyway, that's my excuse. Now, however, I have played the Chorale's superb new CD, *Deep River*, so many times that every lush harmony is ingrained on my memory. The choir has 28 members, drawn entirely from Seventh-day Adventist churches in the London area, and singing only sacred music — mostly spirituals and contemporary gospel. But if the words "sacred music" imply something prim and austere, think again.

This choir seems to shimmer with sensuality: its lower voices are softly and deftly blended; its sopranos flutter and coo like the finest soul singers. But perhaps its greatest strength is the way it draws together two entirely different choral traditions: the British emphasis on good "attack", true intonation and crisp enunciation, and the American tradition of emotional impact and tonal richness.

A virtuoso ensemble, then. Which makes one astonished to discover that its director, Ken Burton, is just 25 years old. Moreover, Burton's "other" choir, the Croydon Seventh-day Adventist Gospel Choir, finished third in this year's Sainsbury's competition. To conduct both the winning and third-placed choirs, in a competition bringing together 300 of Britain's finest, is comparable to a football manager steering both Wimbledon and Charlton Athletic to the final of the FA Cup in the same season. Burton, who has sung in Adventist choirs since he was 15 and studied music at Goldsmiths' College in London, must already be jostling David Willcocks, Robert Shaw, Wilhelm Pitz and Arthur Oldham in the all-time list of great choir-trainers.

What is his secret? He does audition his singers, but does not insist that they read music, "as long as they pick it up pretty fast". One senses that "pretty fast" in this case means lightning quick.

"I suppose you could say that the basic sound of the choir is inevitably dictated by the members being black," he says. "There are certain physiological differences which account for the distinctive timbre of the black voice. And our members also listen to recordings of the top American gospel choirs, so they are steeped in that distinctive style of singing. The main problem that we have had to tackle is one that affects black choirs generally: a tendency to sing flat."

And how does Burton overcome that? "Oh, by getting people paranoid about it."

Some critics will doubtless scoff that the London Adventist Chorale, because its roots are so firmly planted in a specific kind of religious, cultural and musical soil, has developed as far as it can go. I would not count on that. It has already sung in one Prom (providing the chorus for Kurt Weill's operetta, *Cry the Beloved Country*) and is booked for another next summer; Burton also has premieres planned for 1996.

But even if the Chorale has reached a plateau of achievement, it has already brought something new and valuable to the British choral scene. "Gospel" was something that choirs from the Deep South of America did brilliantly, and British choirs with less distinction. Now a top-quality British ensemble has put its stamp on contemporary gospel. The repercussions will be immense among Britain's 10,000 choirs, especially as Burton is bringing out a book of spiritual arrangements for Faber Music. Soon, every mildly adventurous choir-trainer in the land will be programming them — and another bright thread will have been woven into the tapestry of British choral life.

But that's in the future. Meanwhile, I hear that some sensationally good Latvian choirs are available on CD for the first time in the West. Excuse me, but I feel another obsession coming on.

● *The London Adventist Chorale opens the Christmas Festival at St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (0171-222 1061) on Dec 16. Deep River is available on Paradisum PDSM-CD1*

Six make up a thrilling trio

RECITALS: Tomorrow's stars shine brilliantly at the Wigmore Hall

There was standing room only for the 19-year-old **Konstantin Lifschitz**. Word had got around about the young Ukrainian pianist; would this be another Kissin, an embryonic Cherkassky, a Richter in the making? One thing soon became clear: Lifschitz is his own man.

There is not much that finger, wrist, arm and shoulder cannot do to obey every dictate of the mind and imagination of a man tutored from the age of five at Moscow's Gnessin School. And, as one taken under the wing of violinist and conductor Vladimir Spivakov, there are not many corners of the classical performing circuit which he has not already dusted out.

And he is still a student. Studying at the Royal Academy is imposing healthy limits on his concert schedule and, on the evidence of this recital, he is concentrating his best energies on the public appearances he does make. His London recital debut contained more notes than any I have heard for some time.

He is not a miniaturist. This recital travelled round three vast galleries of music: Couperin's long suite, the Ordre No 8 in B minor; two sets of variations by Brahms and Rachmaninov's Thirteen Preludes, Op 32.

Lifschitz started the Couperin as he meant to go on. Rumbling ornaments, heavily jewelled trills, and carillons of right-hand figuration made it clear that he is intoxicated by the acoustic possibilities of the concert grand. At times this intoxication blurred shape and direction — he has a disconcerting habit of pedalling through a turn. But the vision revealed within the mighty *Passacaille* put such quibbles in perspective.

For Brahms, sound and fury had too much of an upper hand. The sheer exuberance of mixing and melding colour and timbre was over-indulged: little trace of Magyar inflection remained in the *Variations on a Hungarian Song*.

But still every moment was compelling. For Rachmaninov, Lifschitz's endearing excitement in all he plays was tempered with seriousness and precisely imagined interpretation. These, after all, are the mature Preludes, fired by idea as much as by virtuosity, and Lifschitz knew it. In the baroque fantasies of the third and fourth Prelude, and the pairing of No 8's brilliant toccata with No 9's dark meditation, it seemed as if the two centuries which separate Couperin and Rachmaninov were a short space in creative time.

Yggdrasil is a name to conjure with. It is the great world-tree of the Norse *Edda*, the mighty ash, holy place of the gods, whose roots reach below the earth and above the heavens. It is also a young string quartet of strong and rapid growth, rooted in Sweden but transplanted — for the time being — to the University of Aberdeen where it is quartet-in-residence.

For their London debut, the four Swedes supported their own Wilhelm *Stenhammar* (the affable Quartet Op 29 No 5) and, loyal to their Scottish brief, gave the London premiere of Judith Weir's austerely beautiful String Quartet.

This was 15 minutes that passed like five. The quartet moved from a slow, lilting "call" of an opening, on through a quizzical little rhythmic canon and to a precipitous *presto* whose action is periodically arrested by a strange, strident aftershock of a chord.

Yggdrasil ended their Sunday afternoon concert with Beethoven's Quartet Op 59 No 2. It was the first time I had heard them in the classical repertoire, and I was delighted that, within a deeply thoughtful performance of silk-sewn ensemble, they still took as many risks as they do in their contemporary programmes. They must hurry back.

So must **Dagmar Pecková**. This extraordinary young mezzo-soprano made her second visit to the Wigmore Hall on Saturday to sing Schoenberg's arrangement of Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* with the Nash Ensemble and tenor Herbert Lippert, conducted by Ian Brown. Although the Wigmore's acoustics over-projected even this chamber-orchestral arrangement, Pecková's voice rang through, with its full bloom of a bass register, its wonderfully resonant core and its pure head voice. This is truly one of the outstanding voices of the half-century.

HILARY FINCH

THE TIMES

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Today *The Times* offers readers a specially selected Christmas hamper for just £75 with a bottle of wine, and only £79 with champagne. The prices include UK mainland delivery.



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Sir Georg leads from the front

CONCERT

Bartók Celebration
Barbican



Maestro Solti added extra verve to the proceedings

FOR the final chamber concert in the "Solti Celebrates Bartók" series at the Barbican on Sunday night, Sir Georg was originally billed as pianist. However, as he confessed when introducing the Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion, his conducting schedule over the past few weeks did not allow him sufficient time to practise. Another Hungarian pianist, Dénes Várjon, was found to join András Schiff at the second keyboard, Solti disarmingly adding that we were getting a better deal.

He himself functioned as conductor, not exactly an indispensable role in this piece, though it is quite possible that his energetic presence added to the drama of the performance. Certainly there was the crackle of tension in the air right from the start. Taut rhythms from all the participants and incisive xylophone strokes from Evelyn Glennie contributed to the air of expectancy, and the suspense was maintained admirably until the moment of release at the close of the first movement.

Schiff and Várjon made a well-matched pair of pianists: eschewing the customary glassy brilliance, they achieved a more soft-grained sonority. With David Corkhill as the fine second percussionist, it seemed a far less aggressive work than usual — and all the better for it.

Magnificent though it is, the String Quartet No 6 was a less happy choice for this venue. Setting aside the high proportion of youngsters (welcome) and throat-clearers (less welcome) present — chamber music demands the most concentrated attention — the Keller Quartet had an uphill task generating and projecting the intensity of a work as melancholy and introspective as anything Bartók wrote. The tender Trio section proved the most satisfying.

The dedicatees of the lesser-known *Contrasts* (1938), for violin, clarinet and piano, were Joseph Szigeti and Benny Goodman, no less. Their roles were taken in exemplary fashion by György Pauk and Andrew Marriner, with Ian Brown at the keyboard. Not one of Bartók's greatest works, perhaps, but demonstrated in this performance to have great drive and an irrepressible sense of coarse peasant humour.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Go Riverdancing

THE TIMES THE THEATRE CLUB

THE dance sensation of the decade is at the heart of a very special Theatre Club weekend, taking place in London from January 26 to 28. After a welcoming reception at their hotel, the four-star Mountbatten in Covent Garden, members will be off to the Hammersmith Apollo to see the sensational *Riverdance*. After breakfast on Saturday the day is free for members to pick up a bargain at the January sales, or explore London with the help of our special guide to the city. Free entry to the Theatre Museum has also been arranged — with a special gift awaiting members at the memorabilia shop.

During the evening, members can take in another show of their choice, depending on ticket availability, before enjoying dinner and cabaret at the Mountbatten. On Sunday we have arranged a guided walking tour of theatreland, followed by afternoon tea.

The cost of the package is just £199 per person. To book, please call Centre Stage on 0800 335588

MEET THE STARS

● ON December 17, club members are invited to meet and question two leading actors — the near-legendary Hayley Mills and Sam West, star of the films *Howards End* and *Carrington* — at the Centre Stage restaurant in Covent Garden. Then off to the Savoy Theatre, for this year's Green Room Rag, an evening of top-class entertainment in aid of theatrical charities. Among the performers are Honor Blackman, James Bolam, Peter Bowles, Barry Cryer, Michael Williams, Simon Williams and Penelope Keith. The cost is £25, including top-priced seats for the show and tea during the question-and-answer session. Tel 0171-420 0284

HOW TO BOOK — AND JOIN

TO BOOK, please phone the listed number during normal office hours. The price printed on the ticket you receive will be the special price negotiated by the Theatre Club. There may be a transaction charge to cover postage

TO JOIN the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 2164, Colchester CO2 8JL, or telephone 01206 791737 using your credit card. Please allow 28 days for delivery of your membership pack. For general inquiries call 0171-387 9673

KIRKCALDY
Adam Smith Theatre
Dec 26-31
● SAVE £2 on tickets (normally £7.50) for the pantomime *Sleeping Beauty*. Tel 01592 260498

HUDDERSFIELD
Lawrence Batley Theatre
Dec 14, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29
● SAVE 20 per cent on tickets (normally £7.50) for *The Wind in the Willows*. Tel 01484 430528

LIVERPOOL
Neptune Theatre
Dec 18-22
● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £7 to £8) for *Cinderella*. Tel 0151-709 7844

LONDON
ICA
Dec 12-14
● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £7) to see the drama *In Speak Bitterness*. Tel 0171-930 3647

Barbican
Dec 14
● TICKETS £15 (normally £22) for the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in performance of Judith Weir's *Forest* and Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde*. Tel 0171-638 8891

Drill Hall
Dec 12-15, Jan 2-6
● TICKETS £7 or £8 (normally £12 to £14) for the classic musical *South Pacific*. Tel 0171-637 8270

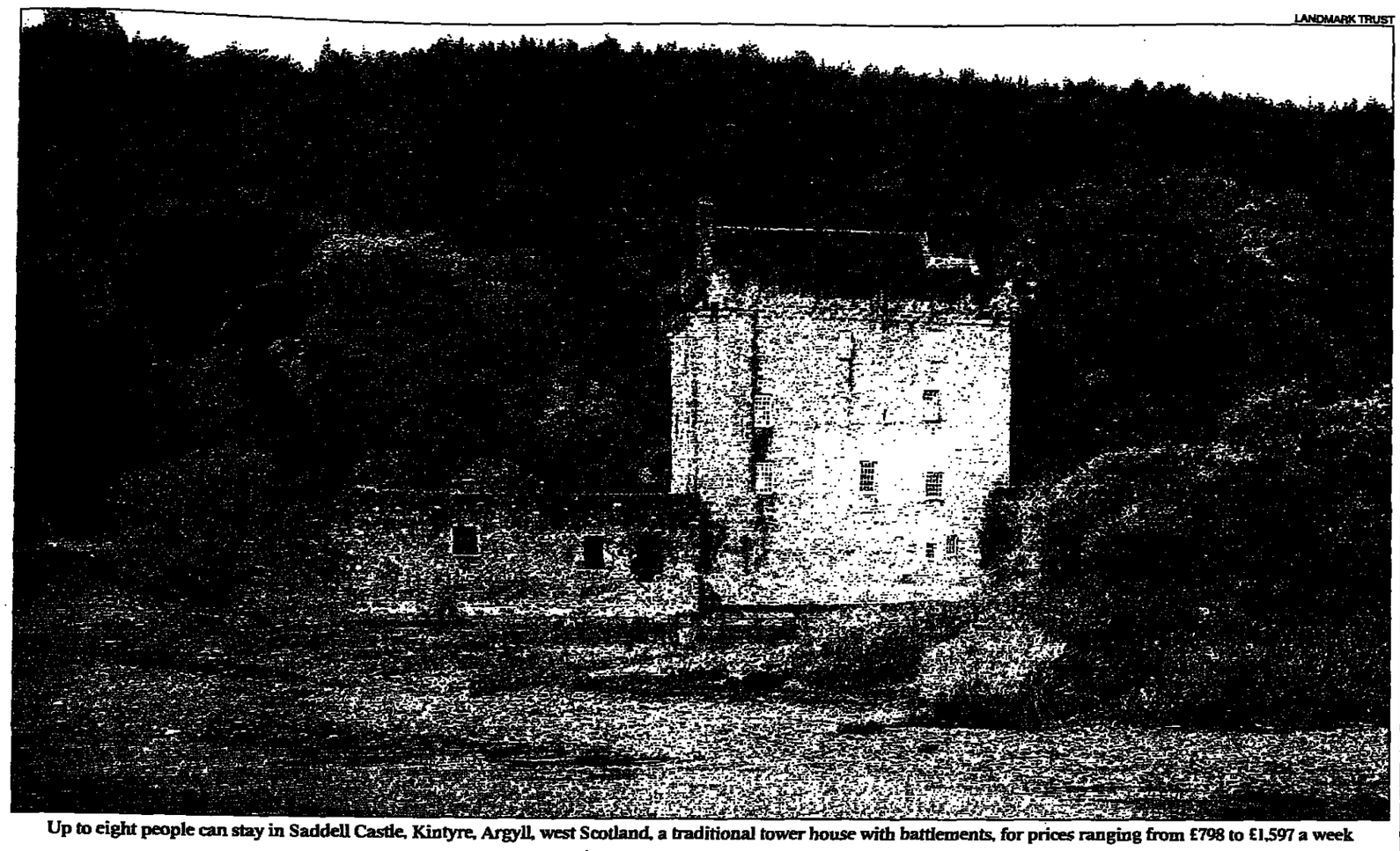
Fortune Theatre
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● SAVE £4 on tickets (normally £10.50) for afternoon performances of the pantomime *The Enchanted Toyshop*. Tel 0171-836 2238

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WEYMOUTH
Pavilion Theatre
Dec 27-29
● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £5 to £7) to see the traditional Christmas story, *Follow the Star*. Tel 01305 783225

هكذا من الاصل

Historic buildings are so popular to stay in that there are too few to go round. **Jennai Cox** reports


LANDMARK TRUST

Up to eight people can stay in Saddell Castle, Kintyre, Argyll, west Scotland, a traditional tower house with battlements, for prices ranging from £798 to £1,597 a week

A rare, landmark holiday

Charities which restore historic buildings and successfully let them or open them to the public are being forced to allow hundreds of properties to crumble because of a lack of funds for conservation.

The Landmark Trust has restored more than 150 buildings over the past 30 years but is forced to turn down scores of rescue bids because it cannot afford to take on more than ten properties each year.

Set up in 1965 to save the smaller historic properties which would otherwise slip through the net, the charity preserves and lets them as holiday homes. Bookings for the 155 properties are generated purely by word of mouth but are occupied for 85 per cent of the year. Most people have to make a reservation up to three years in advance and the rising occupancy could make meeting future demand increasingly difficult.

Jonathan Thompson, head of letting for the trust, says: "We often have to reject buildings we would like to rescue. In many cases, they continue to deteriorate and we have to wait for them to come around again, which could take about 20 years. It is a great shame."

The trust's restoration work, funded from the £4 million generated annually by the lettings, plus donations, bequests and grants, is not sufficient and the process of acquiring and restoring properties causes further delays. The restoration of Coop House, near Carlisle, which sleeps three people and has been occupied since it opened earlier this year, started in 1992.

Mr Thompson says: "At any one time there will alway be historic buildings under threat but there is no way of speeding up the restoration process and it can sometimes take a while to arrange funding."

Sir John Smith, a former MP, director of Coutts Bank and dedicated conservationist, bought the first house in the collection in 1965 because he "always had a thing about old houses". What started off as a fetish has over 30 years turned into a unique collection of buildings from different eras with accommodation for 800 people. About 40,000 people stay in Landmark properties each year and almost all are full over Christmas. Some of the most popular buildings, including Fort Clonque in Alderney, Channel Islands, are booked up well into the new year.

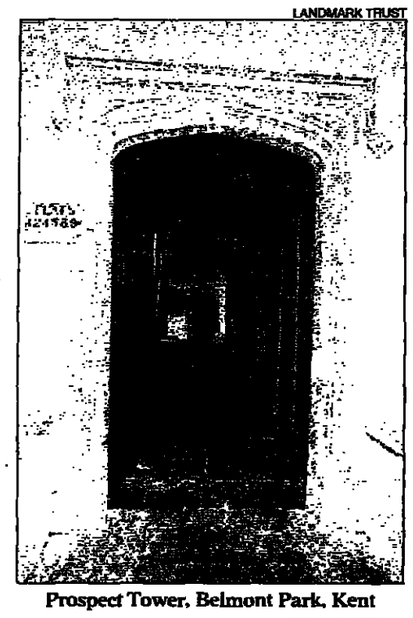
The National Trust, which owns more than 200 country houses in England, Wales and Northern Ireland faces a similar contradiction: the enormous popularity of its existing houses, but lack of funds to restore new ones.

The National Heritage Memorial Fund was set up in 1980 to save items of outstanding historic importance. It does devote some resources, including lottery money, to save old buildings, but conservation groups say this is insufficient. The fund can neither actively advertise itself nor assist private owners of historic buildings unless they are on the point of collapse, and is only able to donate money to trusts. Some groups are calling for a repair fund to be set up dedicated to rescue operations.

Lottery funds could be another answer. Last week, Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of English Heritage, called on the Government to make funds available to the owners of historic property at the annual meeting of the Historic Houses Association

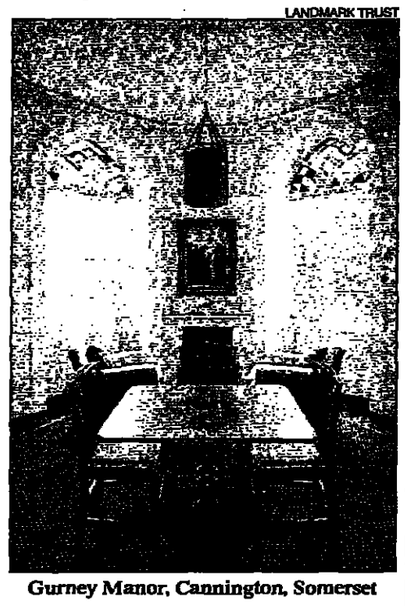
Meanwhile, buildings such as the 200-year-old Chandos House in Westminster, London, which had two chimney pieces stolen recently, and King's Weston, a 1712 building designed by Sir John Vanbrugh in Avon, lie empty and rotting with no decision on their future. Without a solution, it is feared one of Robert Adam's most famous town houses, Home House in Portman Square, London, which has been derelict for three years with no sign of development, will eventually fall into disrepair. Yet were conservation charities able to acquire these houses, they would probably be overrun with visitors and eager tenants.

LANDMARK TRUST



Prospect Tower, Belmont Park, Kent

LANDMARK TRUST



Gurney Manor, Cannington, Somerset

THE TOP TEN HISTORIC CHOICES

THE LANDMARK TRUST says the following are its ten most popular properties:

☐ *Saddell Castle, Kintyre, Argyll, west Scotland.*
Accommodates up to eight people, from £798 to £1,597 a week. The castle is a tower house with battlements. Inside, the rooms include features such as panelling, decorated ceilings, deep windows and closets in the walls.

☐ *Prospect Tower, Belmont Park, Faversham, Kent.*
For two people, from £245 a week to £408 a week. A small flint tower, built in 1880, on the edge of Belmont Park. There are only two rooms.

☐ *Gurney Manor, Cannington, Somerset.*
For up to nine people, from £614 a week to £1,024 a week. Mainly late medieval manor house built round a surviving courtyard, and including a tiny oratory.

☐ *Woodspring Priory, Weston-super-Mare, Avon.*
For up to eight people, from £581 a week to £968 a week. Founded in 1210 by William de Courtenay, who murdered Thomas à Becket. Few monastic remains have been so well kept. It retains the atmosphere of an isolated, religious community by the sea.

☐ *Marshal Wade's House, Abbey Churchyard, Bath.*
For up to four people, from £337 a week to £561 a week. "The nearest to Florence you get in England," it says in the visitors' logbook. This sophisticated building, circa 1720, faces the west front of the abbey. There is an exceptional view of the great carving of Jacob's Ladder.

☐ *43 Cloth Fair, London EC1.*
Flat for two people, from £237 to £303 for four days. Once the home of Sir John Betjeman. This Georgian house faces the churchyard of St. Bartholomew the Great City Church and round the corner is Smithfield Market.

☐ *Frenchman's Creek, Helford, Cornwall.*
For up to four people, from £446 to £743 a week. A granite cottage tucked at the remote head of Frenchman's Creek on the Helford River. It is surrounded by oak trees and at high tide the river is passable by boat.

☐ *Tewkesbury Abbey Gatehouse, Gloucestershire.*
For two people, from £211 to £351 a week. A grand building, circa 1500. The gatehouse has only one fine room on the first floor. At one end is a gallery like an organ case, in which you sleep.

☐ *The Chateau, Gate Burton, Lincolnshire.*
For up to three people, from £268 to £447 a week. Earliest recorded building by John Platt, of Rotherham, it stands above a bend of the River Trent.

☐ *Castle of Park, Glenluce, Galloway, Scotland.*
For up to seven people, from £408 a week to £680 a week. The castle, built in 1590, stands on a tree-fringed plateau above Luce Bay and inside gives the impression of the life of a Jacobean laird. The hall is 30ft long. The potential for hide-and-seek is endless.

● *Bookings can be made by telephone (01628 825925), Monday to Friday, 9am-7pm, Saturday and Sunday 10am-4pm. The Landmark Handbook, 1996, is available from mid-December from the trust for £8.50.*

Framers beam in on oak boom

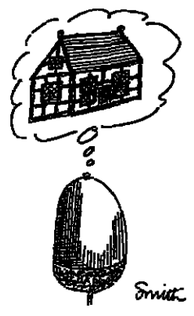
Builders find that everything old is new again and much in demand

The medieval principle of building houses supported by stout oak frames is enjoying such a revival that there is a move to establish a new guild of traditional carpenters.

Demand for the unusual homes, reminiscent of the black-and-white cottages of Tudor times, has increased steadily since the revival took off in the early 1980s, and two of the largest companies in the field are exporting their houses.

Border Oak, of Kingsland, near Hereford, was founded in 1980 by John Greene and Mark Hicks, who hit on the idea of using green, unseasoned oak after reassembling a rescued medieval cruck barn. They started building individually designed homes, first constructing the oak frames in their workshop. They found the frames could often be reassembled and erected on site in a day, and developed insulated, modern in-fill panels so that the oak still showed inside and out.

The company offers a portfolio of 400 designs, for example Meadowsweet Farmhouse, which costs £100,000 for 1,750 sq ft of accommodation under a clay tile roof, complete with an inglenook and central heating.



The style holds an unexpected appeal for the Japanese and Border Oak has built a £4.5 million replica of an Elizabethan English village in Japan. So much other work followed that a new Tokyo branch of the company has been announced.

Another surprise contract was for a $3 million, 10,000 sq ft English "manor house" at Greenwich, Connecticut, with a creaking front door and a secret staircase behind the oak panelling for a Russian-American merchant banker.

Manufacturing capacity is being increased by a third with the completion of an extra workshop, bringing its number of employees to 92. "People don't want nondescript estate houses any more," said Mr Greene.

Carpenter Oak and Woodland, based at Colerne, near Chippenham, Wiltshire, also put its roots down in 1980, specialising at first in conservation and repair, but it then developed a contemporary approach to house design while retaining the old oak framing methods. Its joint founder, architect Roderick James, said half its work was now new build. "We're increasingly working with other architects who want to use oak," he said. "We aim to put more fun and informality back into buildings. Ours have a lived-in feel even when they've just been built."

The company is also building a house in the United States, at Chappaquidick.

Mr James said the company has been remarkably recession-proof and had just opened a new workshop at East Cornworthy, near Totnes, Devon, employing seven people. He says its other 45 carpenters are remarkably committed: "Most are so proud of their work, you'll find cameras in their toolbags as well as chisels."

Smaller companies throughout the country have also adopted a contemporary approach. Rupert Newman, of Westwind Oak Buildings, of Southville, Bristol, says: "People's perception of what a new house is going to be is quite different from ours. "We're having trouble getting planning permission for a new house at Priddy in the Mendips because local people think it's not traditional, yet we're using a cruck frame that's very traditional to Somerset."

The company built a striking three-bedroom contemporary house on the Somerset levels near Glastonbury for Bristol architect Wilf Burton and his artist wife, Fay.

"They made the frame in the workshop over five weeks," says Mr Burton. "As they dismantled it in the workship, they marked the joints with Roman numerals as they did in medieval times to make it easier to assemble, and the frame went up in a day."

"We started last August and we moved in in late spring. The house has a passive solar heating design with a glazed south wall."

Paul Price, a partner in Woodwrights of Wimborne St Giles, Dorset, who edits a newsletter mailed to 20 oak-frame builders in Britain, says: "There is a great revival of traditional framing, but not many people know how to do it in a purist sense. There are special guilds in North America and France, but we have no body representing wood-framers and we need to exchange more information."

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ROBIN MAYES



Pennie and Carrie Donaghy, 13, outside their new home

House the Donaghys built

High-rise families in Hackney have come down to earth

After 41 years as a tenant John Donaghy has finally moved in to his dream home — a house he and his family helped to design. His first home was a Victorian terrace slum. He moved to the 12th floor of a concrete tower block that replaced it, then to the 19th floor of a neighbouring tower when he married, and finally back down to a modern terraced house, one of 400 new homes in Wick Village on the site of the former Trowbridge Estate in Hackney, east London.

When living in the tower block Mr Donaghy and his wife Pennie, 36, saw many promises of new homes come and go after three of the towers were demolished in the mid-1980s. Then, four years ago, the couple went to a tenant action meeting.

He says: "Only six tenants turned up. We heard about this Estate Action scheme and how we could build our own housing. We hardly believed it, but it was better than being left to rot. Hackney had no money. But as we got further down the line, attending training courses, we realised that, yes, we could do this."

They formed a steering group, which partnered Hackney council to apply for funding from Estate Action, a government-funded programme to help local authorities to regenerate run-down housing estates. The Government gave £13.2 million and a further £3.7 million came from Hackney. The tenants appointed the architects, Levitt Bernstein, and sat in on the committee that selected the builders, Willmott Dixon.

Ian Scotter, Director of East London Regeneration Programmes, says: "We encouraged as much tenant participation as possible. They had a very clear idea of what they wanted, and worked closely with the architects deciding how many units to fit onto the sites and where they should go. What they've done is very imaginative, they've used the site well, it's excellent. This approach takes time, but you get a better product."

Bernard Crofton, Hackney's director of housing, says: "I'm very proud of Wick Village and of working with the tenants to rebuild this estate and to manage it themselves. It is a model for regeneration in urban areas."

Mrs Donaghy joked: "When the houses were being built no-one dared set a foot wrong. We watched every move from our tower block. It was difficult to get tenants involved; they'd been disappointed before. But they started supporting us once the houses were plotted out on site and we started pre-allocating so people knew which house was theirs — 75 per cent of people got their first choice plot and the rest got their second choice. Later everyone voted for a tenant management co-operative."

The Donaghys were allocated a two-bedroom house overlooking the Lea Navigation Canal, with a back garden, for which they pay £62 rent a week. The new Wick Village has two garden square play areas and a barbecue patch where they held their bonfire night gathering.

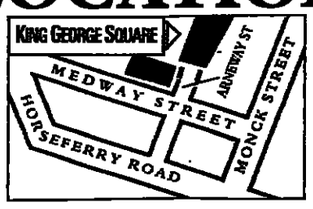
Mr Donaghy loves it: "It's 100 times better, living in a house. There's more of a community now, no question. We never saw neighbours before, but now we talk to them in the garden and can see people walking by."

Mrs Donaghy, who now chairs the Wick Village Tenant Management Co-operative, says their daughter is catching up on the play she lost. "People's quality of life here is entirely different. I leave for work early now; I'm bound to bump into someone I know. We're gaining a sense of community. We've had four break-ins in 18 months, that's not bad. There's been a little graffiti in the play area and a piece of play equipment was slightly damaged, but it's no worse than anywhere else."

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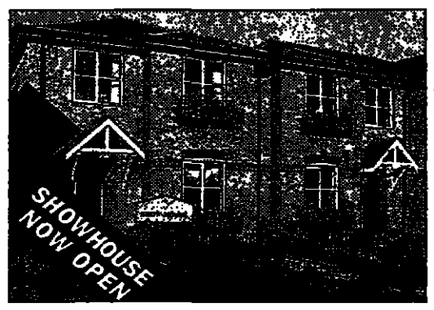
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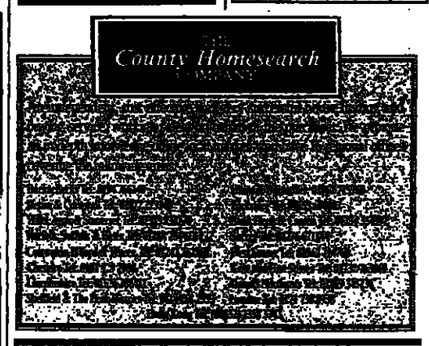
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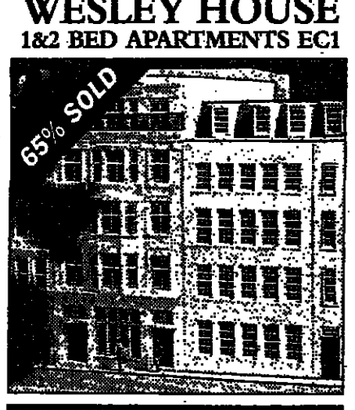
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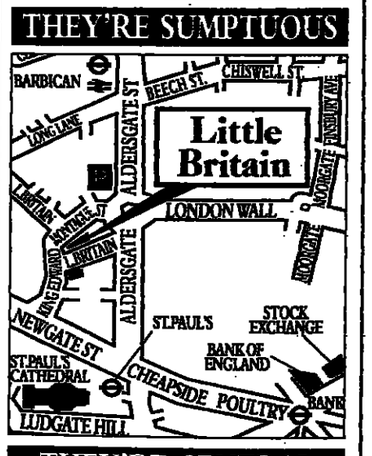


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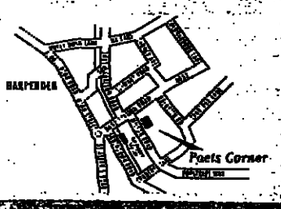
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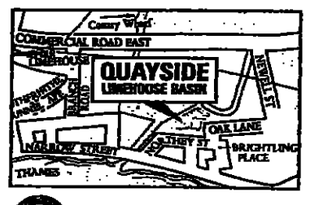
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Series finishes trouble-free as Taylor and Wasim lead by example

Rivals rediscover the lost art of sportsmanship



Michael Henderson in Sydney reflects on a triumphant tour for winners and losers alike

THE International Cricket Council could this morning perform a notable feat on behalf of the game by officially citing Mark Taylor and Wasim Akram, the captains of Australia and Pakistan respectively, for their outstanding leadership during the series that ended 2-1 in Australia's favour on Monday.

Never in recent years has a Test series depended so much for its favourable progress on the good intentions of the participants. In view of the unseemly legal wrangling that preceded it, and the limitless potential of Pakistan cricket for self-destruction, it was essential that it passed off without serious incident, and, thanks largely to the moral rectitude of the captains, magnificent cricketers both, the cricket was played in a noticeably warm atmosphere: of friendship, even.

When Taylor led his men on to the field in Sydney on Monday, to congratulate the Pakistanis on their 74-run victory, there was nothing counterfeit about their declaration of goodwill. Healy and Rashid, the wicketkeepers, exchanged greetings; Basit Ali enjoyed a joke with Warne, who had bowled him between his legs with the most outrageous leg break two days earlier. Here were two teams showing the regard they hold for one another in an unforced example of sportsmanship.

Left to his own devices, the cricketer is at heart a well-disposed chap, and here was the proof. For Pakistan, it was an important win, one that will serve to quell any thoughts of rebellion back home and restore some much-needed self-belief to a team that moved on to New Zealand yesterday for a one-off Test match, starting on Friday, and then defends the World Cup on its own soil in February.

Wasim deserved it. He is a proud, chivalrous man, and such a great fast bowler of seam and swing that it is not impertinent to call him the finest of his type in the history of the game. He has led by example in this series and, at the last, had something tangible to show for his commitment. His brilliant bowling, and the way Mushtaq Ahmed rediscovered his best form, were the most encouraging aspects of the tour.

Where Taylor stands, nobody should be in any doubt. Here is a truly outstanding cricketer, and man. He is the best slip fielder in the world. As an opening batsman he is, with Michael Atherton, the most reliable. As a captain he is the best, bar none: a solid citizen with a firm hand and an imaginative touch. Moreover, he leads the best team in the world, notwithstanding what one is tempted to call their customary Sydney defeat.

Right from the start of this series, Taylor stressed that the conflict between Australia and Pakistan had nothing to do with the players. Having achieved his third series victory inside a calendar year, he was gracious, holding to his opinion that Australia were indeed the best side, and praising Pakistan for the way they rallied in the final Test. This is an exceptional man who can keep Australia on top of the world for a good few years yet.

There is misguided talk in the Caribbean about Brian Lara, and how he can reshape West Indian cricket policy. It all rather misses the point. Wes Hall and Richie Richardson are decent, well-rounded men, who have the best interests of West Indian cricket at heart, and they are not being assisted by Lara's impersonation of Achilles, sulking in his tent.

Through their actions, Taylor and Wasim have shown another, more responsible, way forward. They have reclaimed the game for the players, and their teams have followed. Surely it is not beyond England to "stabilise" relations with Pakistan, as politicians have it. When the English Cricket Board is ushered in next year, it should resolve this thorny issue at once and bring this Cold War to an end.

☐ Persistent rain forced the limited-overs match between the Prime Minister's XI and the West Indians in Canberra to be abandoned yesterday without a ball being bowled. The West Indians are scheduled to play the New South Wales state team in Newcastle tomorrow.



Taylor: outstanding



Mushtaq's return to form in Australia was highly encouraging for Pakistan

S Africa include Adams in World Cup plans

By Our Sports Staff

PAUL ADAMS, the unorthodox wrist spinner, was yesterday included in South Africa's provisional 20-man squad for the World Cup in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka next February and March.

Adams, 20, came to the fore when he took nine wickets for South Africa A against England in Kimberley in only his third first-class game. Bob Woolmer, the South Africa coach, emphasised that Adams was not definitely going to be in the final party of 14 which will be announced after South Africa's last one-day international against England on January 21.

"This is only a squad of 20 which we had to name now, so things can change. We haven't seen Adams bowl in a one-day competition yet, but in Pakistan the ball does turn and, anyway, he's certainly not the worst bowler in the world," Woolmer said.

Adams is one of four spinners included in the 20 but there is no place for Clive Eksteen, who is being widely blamed for South Africa's failure to bowl out England on the final day of the Johannesburg Test. Eksteen and Meyrick Pringle, the swing bowler, are the only players from the XI in Johannesburg not to be included.

Peter Pollock, the convener of selectors, said Fanie de Villiers and Brett Schultz, the fast bowlers, were not considered because of injury but could still get into the squad if they proved their fitness. Pollock also rebuffed Indian demands that the final 14 be chosen from the provisional list. "We are not taking this demand seriously," he said.

SOUTH AFRICA SQUAD: W J Cronje (Free State, captain), A C Hudson (Natal), G Kirsten (W Province), D J Cullinan (Border), J N Rhodes (Natal), B M McMillan (W Province), D J Richardson (E Province), S N Pollock (Natal), C R Matthews (W Province), A A Donald (Free State), P Adams (W Province), P L Symcox (Natal), D N Crookes (Natal), N Boje (Free State), S J Palframan (Border), L Klusener (Natal), A P Kuiper (Boland), R P Snell (Transvaal), J H Kallis (W Province), R J R Steyn (Natal).

King asks Hamed to support Bruno's big night

By Srikumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent

NASEEM HAMED, the World Boxing Organisation featherweight champion, could box on the undercard of the bill on which Frank Bruno defends his World Boxing Council heavyweight title against Mike Tyson in Las Vegas on March 16.

The offer was made yesterday by Don King. No opponent has been mentioned but Frank Warren, Hamed's promoter, said that there was a good chance of the Sheffield man taking the opportunity to box before an American crowd for the first time.

Hamed was also wanted by Showtime, the American television company, to top a promotion in the United States, but turned down the offer because he said he was making more money here. Hamed, who was born of Yemeni parents, has also had invitations from the United Arab Emirates, Dubai and Saudi Arabia.

Warren rejected the million-pound offer made at the weekend by Mat Tinley, the manager of Wayne McCullough, for Hamed to box the Irishman at bantamweight. "They know Naz can't make bantamweight," Warren said. "It would be a tremendous attraction if they took Naz at featherweight, but it would be a massacre. Naz and McCullough are not on the same planet."

Hamed said: "He's not in my class. He's a goalkeeper. He's hiding in Las Vegas. Who knows him in Britain? He's not even fourth division, he's fifth division."

Hamed, who had to call off his defence on December 9 against Arnulfo Castillo, of Mexico, because he damaged his right hand in the gym, said he would be ready to meet Castillo on February 10. Brendan Ingle, Hamed's trainer, said the champion would start sparring in two weeks.

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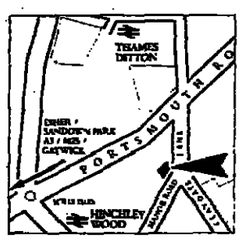


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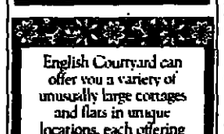
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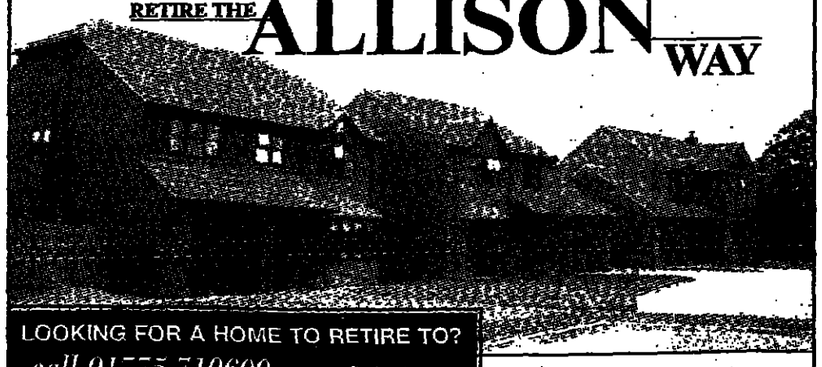
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BBC's glossy hard sell tarnishes Cup's lustre

MIDWEEK VIEW



SIMON BARNES

I felt rather as if I were being shown round a house by a pushy estate agent, a young man carbuncular, over-keen on his commission. Look at this lovely view, you can see sheep from the window. Look at this kitchen, lovely, a real living space. Look at this bathroom, lovely, real cosy, innit?

But look here, estate agent. I already live here. Why are you selling it to me? Please go away.

Why was the BBC trying to sell me the Football Association Challenge Cup, when they televised the third-round draw on Monday night? Look at this FA Cup, lovely innit? Yes I know. Yeah, but like, sometimes the underdogs win. Yes, I know. I mean, the third round, lovely really, big sides come in for the first time, take on the minnows, David and Goliath, I mean, lovely, innit?

But look here, BBC person, I already like the FA Cup, and so does everybody else who likes football. Every time you mention the Magic of the Cup, the Cup loses a little more magic. So please have the goodness to shut up.

So they stop selling and run a commercial instead. A sequence of memorable FA Cup goals, with a background of music. I don't wish to sound too elderly, but it was *horrid* music. The soundtrack to a migraine. I'm told in all seriousness that the genre might have been Ambient House, or possibly Belgian Garage.

But I don't care if it was Bach or Bo Diddley: sport does not need dressing up in music. The BBC deserves to lose every sport on its dwindling calendar for its endlessly repeated musical crimes.

Sport does not need dressing up in anything. Sport is perfectly good enough naked. That is why *Graham Kelly: The Movie* was a monstrous waste of time. I am not going to hark back to the Monday lunch-time draw, the transistor radio beneath the lid of the desk, the little hearts beating beneath the school blazers. But at least that was a genuine tradition: and sports need such things.

Before the draw, an unneeded commercial. After, a garland of clichés. From a babel of soundbites various important truths emerged: that most teams prefer to be drawn at home, that the Cup's a great leveller. Lovely, innit?

This sad little show, small deal in itself, demonstrates two big problems. Together they add up to one absolutely colossal error, one that will, in the end, bring about the end of sport as we know it.

Problem one: the assumption that because television loves sport, and because sport and television is the greatest symbiotic relationship in the history of global communications, television has sport's long-term good at heart.

It does not, nor should it. Television's job is television. The responsibility is short term: today's audience is all that matters. That is as true of Sky as it is of the BBC.

Sport must look after itself: guard what needs to be guarded, keep what needs to kept. Television's short-term gain is often sport's long-term loss.

The second problem is the overselling of sport: the permanent commercial. Television seeks always to increase its audience, and so again and again, it panders to the people on the fringes. The uncommitted. That is why we had on Monday night a football show designed for people who don't really like football.

This is a betrayal of the people at the heartland of sport, but what do they matter? They will always watch, we can take them for granted. Turn up the Ambient House, let the football nuts grit their teeth, and hope to bring in a few people who just don't care one way or the other.

Thus the great error. Sport gets dressed up again and again in the tawdry finery of showbusiness. Sport is entertainment, we are told, and so it is. But sport is entertaining because the struggle is real. Sport, unlike showbusiness, does not depend on illusion.

Bit by bit, television strips sport of what makes it worth watching. Yes, another thousand replays of the key moment — even while the ball is live. What does it matter if we miss a dull bit? All you lose is the continuity, the feel, the reality of the event.

We feel, sometimes, that we are satiated with sport, but we are not. We are satiated with packaging: stuffed to the gills with garnish. The FA Cup, the Gladiators, the wrestling: what's the difference so long as someone is watching? Well, television person, if you don't know, I can't tell you.

Television does not care about sport, but sport cares too much about television. Perhaps we should have a campaign for real televised sport: for sport naked and unashamed.

There was one part of the FA Cup show that was good: the actual draw. The prospect of Cinderford Town v Aston Villa needs no recourse to Belgian Garage.

FA CUP THIRD-ROUND DRAW

Saturday, January 6

Crewe Alexandra v West Bromwich Albion
Reading v Gillingham
Tranmere Rovers v Queens Park Rangers
Norwich City v Brentford
Leicester City v Manchester City
Cinderford Town or Gravesend and Northfleet v Aston Villa
Crystal Palace v Port Vale
Stoke City v Nottingham Forest
Swindon Town v Enfield or Woking
Bradford City v Bolton Wanderers
Huddersfield Town v Blackpool
Plymouth Argyle v Coventry City
Grimsby Town v Luton Town
Birmingham City v Wolverhampton Wanderers
Peterborough United v Wrexham
Barnsley v Oldham Athletic
West Ham United v Southend United
Torquay United or Walsall v Wigan Athletic
Millwall v Oxford United
Manchester United v Sunderland
Liverpool v Rochdale or Darlington
Hereford United v Tottenham Hotspur
Arsenal v Sheffield United
Fulham or Brighton v Scunthorpe United or Shrewsbury Town
Ipswich Town v Blackburn Rovers
Charlton Athletic v Sheffield Wednesday
Notts County v Middlesbrough
Watford v Wimbledon

Sunday, January 8

Chelsea v Newcastle United
Derby County v Leeds United
Everton v Stockport County
Southampton v Portsmouth

REPLAY DATES: Dec 12: Darlington v Rochdale (7.30); Gravesend v Cinderford (7.45); Shrewsbury v Scunthorpe (7.30); Walsall v Torquay (7.45); Woking v Enfield (at Wycombe, 7.30) Dec 14: Brighton v Fulham (7.45).



Denis Law, left, and Terry Venables bring big-name glamour to the third-round draw

PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

IN PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION 1995-96

CHANNEL TUNNEL RAIL LINK
(AMENDMENT OF PROVISIONS - DECEMBER 1995)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that it is intended that the Select Committee of the House of Commons which is considering the Bill under the above name or short title should consider certain amendments to the Bill the purposes of which are concisely summarised as follows:-

1. Two schemes (the "St. Pancras Approach: Promoters' Developed Scheme and Associated Works" and the "St. Pancras Approach: Modified Baxter Scheme and Associated Works") for the approach of the rail link to the proposed London terminus at St. Pancras as follows:-

(a) Works in the London boroughs of Camden and Islington provided for in each Scheme and being alternatives to those proposed in the Bill, comprising -

Works Nos 1AA, 1BB, 1CC and 1DD - Railways in substitution for parts of the railways (Works Nos 1A to 1D) as described in Schedule 1 to the Bill, providing revised alignments, both vertically and horizontally, for the international and domestic railways to and from St. Pancras Station between a point south of the Regent's Canal and a point east of the Caledonian Road, with railways then proceeding to Highbury Corner as described in Schedule 1 to the Bill;

Works Nos. 1EE, 1FF, 1GG, 1HH and 1JJ - Railways in substitution for the railways (Works Nos. 1E to 1J) as described in Schedule 1 to the Bill, providing revised links or junctions between the international railway and the Midland Main Line and the North London Incline Railway, and Work No.1K which is a cross-over between the international railway and the Midland Main Line within the throat to St. Pancras Station;

Works Nos 2AA and 2BB - Railways in substitution for parts of the railways (Works Nos. 2A and 2B) as described in Schedule 1 to the Bill, providing revised alignments for connections to the Midland City Line (Thameslink);

Work No. 3B - A railway in substitution for part of the railway (Work No. 3) as described in Schedule 1 to the Bill, providing for a realigned diversion of the Midland Main Line; Work No.3C being a railway siding on the western side of Work No. 3B;Work No. 3D being a cross-over between the northbound and southbound rails of the Midland Main Line to the north of Camden Road Tunnel; and Work No.3E being a railway in substitution for the railway (Work No.3A) as described in Schedule 1 to the Bill, for construction purposes only;

Work No.5D(3) - a new access road between York Way and a point in the King's Cross Railway Lands, together with Work No. 5D(4), a new road within the Railway Lands between Work No. 5D(3) and Wharf Road. An additional access road (Work No.5EE) is proposed, in substitution for the road (Work No. 5E) as described in Schedule 1 to the Bill, between York Way and a point in the north-west corner of the Railway Lands;

Work No. 5LL - A diversion of the Camden Sewer being in substitution for the diversion (Work No 5L) as described in Schedule 1 to the Bill.

(b) In addition to the above works, each Scheme contains the following further works:-

In the Promoters' Developed Scheme -

Works Nos. 5Q and 5Q(1) are new roads comprising diversions of York Way and Randell's Road;

In the Modified Baxter Scheme -

Work No. 2F - A railway being a realignment of the Midland City Line (Thameslink) to a point north of Kentish Town Station: Work No.1GG referred to above would also extend to that point;

Work No 5Q - A diversion of the Middle Level Sewer No.2;

Work No. 24 - A railway providing a chord line between the Midland Main Line and the North London Line west of Belsize Tunnel at West Hampstead.

2. Provision of the following:-

(a) Construction of works in the London boroughs of Camden and Islington to provide for altered or additional subways (Works Nos.4AA and 4MM) at King's Cross/St. Pancras Underground Station together with a diversion of the St. Pancras Sewer (Work No.5R) between that sewer and the Fleet Sewer;

(b) Construction of works in the borough of Ashford, county of Kent, comprising -

Works Nos.16T and 16U - Railways in the town of Ashford, comprising sidings from the Ashford to Canterbury Railway into the Ashford Goods Yard east of the East Stour River and a connection between the railways (Works Nos. 16E and 16A) as described in Schedule 1 to the Bill;

Works Nos.16QQ, 16RR and 16RR(1) - Roads in the town of Ashford and parish of Sevington being a diversion of Boys Hall Road and Canterbury Road (in substitution for Work No.16Q as described in Schedule 1 to the Bill), a realignment of Crowbridge Road and new road into the northern corner of Orbital Park (in substitution for Work No 16R as described in Schedule 1 to the Bill) and a new road between Work No. 16RR and Canterbury Road;

(c) Provision in the London boroughs of Hackney and Newham of land for spoil handling facilities on lands in and adjacent to the River Lee Navigation and Waterworks River, Stratford;

(d) Provision in the borough of Gravesham, county of Kent, of land for a footbridge to facilitate access between Northfleet Station and the proposed station at Ebbsfleet;

(e) Provision in the borough of Ashford, town of Ashford, county of Kent, of land for a construction site on land at Carlton Road (Rimmels);

(f) Provision for alteration to the southerly limit of deviation for railway works, shown on the plans for the Barking Extended Tunnel, in the vicinity of Choats Manor Way, Barking.

3. Provision to carry out subsidiary works; to lay out or improve means of access in locations shown on the deposited plans; and temporary interference with the River Lee Navigation, Waterworks River and Prescott Channel in connection with the works at Stratford described in Schedule 1 to the Bill.

4. Interference with highways including stopping up or diversion of specified parts of roads and footpaths on realignment or diversion of such highways specified in paragraphs 1 and 2 above and parts of other footpaths in the areas mentioned in those paragraphs as shown on the deposited plans.

5. Compulsory acquisition of land within limits of deviation for the Works or within limits of land to be acquired or used shown on the deposited plans in the areas referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 above; further powers for the acquisition of land so shown for specified purposes; temporary possession and use of certain land so shown for other specified purposes; and the provision of land within the King's Cross Railway Lands for the replacement of concrete batching facilities. The land which may be acquired or used includes part of St. Pancras Gardens (area 200 sq m), Camley Street Natural Park (area 579 sq m) and the recreation area at Agar Grove (area 5,719 sq m) all in the London borough of Camden, part of Arena Field (area 3,725 sq m) in the London borough of Hackney and part of Ebbsfleet Pleasure Ground (area 1,913 sq m) in the town of Gravesend, borough of Gravesham.

6. Alterations and additions to the provision which is now made in the Bill regarding parking at St. Pancras and Ebbsfleet, the demolition of structures in conservation areas in the London borough of Camden, statutory consultation with the National Rivers Authority, control over the relocation of electricity pylons and the diversion of overhead electricity lines, the acquisition by statutory undertakers of rights relating to relocated apparatus and control over construction arrangements.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Plans and Sections, with Books of Reference to those Plans relating to the areas affected by the proposed Amendments have been deposited for public inspection at the offices referred to in Part 1 of the scheduled list below.

Relevant Supplements to the Environmental Statement and Non-Technical Summaries of those Supplements have also been deposited for public inspection and for sale at reasonable prices at each of the offices mentioned in Part 1 of the scheduled list marked thus* and at the offices of the undermentioned Parliamentary Agent.

Copies of the Bill and of the proposed Amendments are available for inspection and copies of the proposed Amendments are available for sale at a reasonable price at each of those offices mentioned in Part 1 of the scheduled list marked thus* and at the offices of the undermentioned Parliamentary Agent. Copies of the Bill are also on sale at Her Majesty's Stationery Office at 49 High Holborn, London WC1V 6HR.

Copies of the Bill, and of the proposed Amendments and the relevant Plans and Sections, Books of Reference, Environmental Statement Supplements and Non-Technical Summaries are also available for public inspection at the libraries referred to in Part II of the scheduled list.

Amended plans showing the altered southerly limit of deviation for railway works for the Barking Extended Tunnel have been deposited for public inspection with the Chief Executive, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, Civic Centre, Dagenham, Essex, RM10 7DR and at his office at The Town Hall, Barking, Essex IG11 7LU. Copies of the proposed Amendments are available for public inspection and sale at these offices. The amended plans and proposed Amendments are also available for public inspection at the Central Library, Axe Street, Barking, Essex IG11 7NB.

The Bill has been introduced in the House of Commons as a public Bill. In the House of Commons the effect of an Order made by that House is that Petitions in opposition to the proposed Amendments must be presented by being deposited in the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons not later than 10th January 1996.

In the House of Lords, objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a Petition against it in the office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, and the latest date for depositing such a Petition against the Bill may be the subject of an Order made by that House, or if no Order is made, will be the tenth day after that on which the Bill receives its First reading in that House. In the latter case, if this date is a Sunday, Christmas Day or a Bank Holiday, or a day on which the House does not sit, the final date for depositing may be postponed.

Information about the deposit of such Petitions may be obtained from either the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons or the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments in the House of Lords, or from the undermentioned Parliamentary Agent.

Dated 6th December 1995

M. P. THOMAS,
Department of Transport,
Great Minster House,
76 Marsham Street,
London SW1P 4DR,
Legal Adviser.

ALISON M.H. GORLOV,
35 Great Peter Street,
Westminster,
London SW1P 3LR,
Parliamentary Agent.

SCHEDULED LIST

PART I

For works and lands in the London Boroughs of Camden and Islington, with the -

*Chief Executive, London Borough of Camden, Town Hall, Judd Street, London WC1H 9JE;
*Chief Executive, London Borough of Islington, 222 Upper Street, London N1 1YA.

For works and lands at Ashford, with the:-

*Joint Secretary, Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ;
* Borough Secretary and Solicitor, Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1PL;
Clerk to the Mersham and Sevington Parish Council, 8 Long Row, Flood Street, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 7HD.

For lands for spoil handling facilities at Stratford, with the-

*Chief Executive, London Borough of Hackney, 161 City Road, London EC1V 1NR;
* Director of Corporate Services, London Borough of Newham, Town Hall, East Ham, London E6 2RP.

For lands for a footbridge at Northfleet Station, with the -

*Joint Secretary, Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ;
* Legal Services Manager, Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1AU.

PART II

For works and lands in the London Boroughs of Camden and Islington, with the -

Chief Librarian, St. Pancras Library, Town Hall Extension, Argyle Street, London WC1H 8EQ;
Head Librarian, Swiss Cottage Library, 88 Avenue Road, London NW3 3HA;
Chief Librarian, Central Library (Islington), 2 Fieldway Crescent, London N5 1PF.

For works and lands at Ashford, with the -

Head Librarian, Ashford Library, Church Road, Ashford, Kent TN23 1QX;
Centre for Kentish Studies, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ;
Local Government Information Services, Kent Arts & Libraries HQ, Springfield, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2LH.

For lands for spoil handling facilities at Stratford, with the -

Head Librarian, Central Library (Hackney), Mare Street, London E8 1HG;
Head Librarian, Stratford Reference Library, Water Lane, Stratford, London E15 4NJ.

For lands for a footbridge at Northfleet Station, with the -

Head Librarian, Gravesend Central Library, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1BE.

Hendry relieved to see off Swail

STEPHEN HENDRY may be 5,295 points ahead of John Higgins, his nearest challenger in the provisional world snooker rankings, but the Scot was still relieved to have survived a tough first-round examination in the German Open in Frankfurt yesterday (Phil Yates writes).

The world champion, who captured his fourth United Kingdom title three days ago, reached the last 16 with a 5-2 victory over Joe Swail. It was a flattering scoreline for Hendry, who compiled a 132 total clearance in the second frame but then had to turn the tide against Swail by salvaging a dramatic fourth frame after trailing 2-1.

"It was a big struggle to get myself going but with first-round defeats being so bad for the ranking-point situation I managed to get myself pretty motivated," Hendry, who has now won 26 of his last 27 matches, said. "This result is a massive weight off my shoulders. Now I can relax."

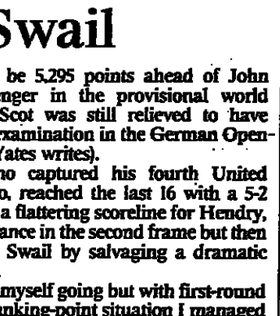
Richards ready to help

CRICKET: Viv Richards, the former West Indies batsman and captain, yesterday offered to help to solve the dispute between Brian Lara and West Indies cricket officials. Lara, holder of the world record Test and first-class batting scores, withdrew from the tour to Australia last week after being fined, with three other players, by the West Indies Cricket Board of Control for misconduct during last summer's series in England. Richards said: "I carry no weight with the board, but I am so dismayed by the affair that, here and now, I volunteer to mediate in an attempt to get a batsman better than I ever was back on track to help West Indies mount a serious challenge for the 1996 World Cup. They need only to pick up a phone."

Donouger joins Bulls

RUGBY LEAGUE: In their first signing since the sale of Paul Newlove to St Helens for a world record £500,000, Bradford Bulls yesterday acquired Jeremy Donouger, 26, from the South Sydney club, on a two-year contract. The Australian forward, who played under Brian Smith, the Bradford coach, at Sydney St George, will arrive in January. Swinton have signed Willie Wolfgramm, 25, a half back, and Taliti Liava'a, 24, a forward. Both were members of Tonga's World Cup squad. Mark Preston, 28, of Halifax, is set to return to Fylde, the rugby union club where he first came to prominence.

Seles set for Australia



TENNIS: Monica Seles, right, will compete in the Australian Open next month, creating the possibility of another final meeting with Steffi Graf, the joint world No 1 who has already confirmed her entry for the event. The Australian Open was Seles's last grand slam victory before she was stabbed at a tournament in Hamburg in April 1993. She has never been beaten in the event, winning the title three times.

Smith-Bingham on song

RACKETS: Alex Smith-Bingham survived an exciting contest against Matthew Hayward, of Australia, to reach the quarter-finals of the Lacoste British amateur championships at the Queen's Club yesterday. Smith-Bingham, a last-minute replacement for the injured Tim Cockroft, moved superbly, retrieving some outstanding shots from Hayward at the back of the court and showing that he is now well capable of killing most short balls, as he won 15-10, 15-8, 15-9.

Moore grasps record

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Herman Moore set a team record with 14 catches for 183 yards as the resurgent Detroit Lions beat Chicago Bears 27-7 in the National Football League. It was Detroit's fourth consecutive victory and sixth in a row at home, and brought them level with the Bears and Minnesota Vikings in second place in the National Conference central division with a 7-6 record, behind Green Bay Packers who are 9-4. Moore also leads the league with 101 catches for 1,417 yards this season.

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

FOOTBALL

European Cup Champions' League
Group A

Nantes v Panathinaikos
Aalborg v FC Porto

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Panath'kos	5	3	1	1	7	3	10
Nantes	5	2	2	1	8	6	8
FC Porto	5	1	3	1	4	3	6
Aalborg	5	1	0	4	3	10	3

Group B

Legia Warsaw v Spartak Moscow
Blackburn v Rosenborg

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sp Moscow	5	5	0	0	14	4	15
L Warsaw	5	2	1	2	5	7	7
Rosenborg	5	2	0	3	10	12	6
Blackburn	5	0	1	4	1	7	1

Group C

Borussia Dortmund v Rangers
Steaua Bucharest v Juventus

	P	W	D	L	F.	A	Pts
Juventus	5	4	0	1	15	4	12
B Dortmund	5	2	2	1	6	6	6
S Bucharest	5	1	2	2	2	5	5
Rangers	5	0	2	3	4	12	2

Group D

Ajax v Ferencvaros
Grasshopper Zurich v Real Madrid

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax	5	4	1	0	11	1	13
Real Madrid	5	2	1	2	9	5	7
Ferencvaros	5	1	2	2	9	15	5
Grasshopper	5	0	2	3	3	11	2

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division
Aberdeen v Kilmarnock

LEAGUE OF WALES: Conwy v Connah's Quay. Cup: First round: Cemaes Bay v Caernarfon; Ebbw Vale v Ton Pentre.
REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: FA XI v Icis League XI (at Purfleet FC).
BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Southern division: Fareham v Newport IoW. Dr Martens Cup: Second round: Forest Green v Newport; Paget v Gresley; Salisbury v Dorchester.
UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Leigh v Warrington.
COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Feltham v Raynes Park Vale.
HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Turfley v Swindon Supermarine.
BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Stafford T v Darlaston.
JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Felixstowe v Comard.
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Eastleigh v Downton; Brockenhurst v BAT.
FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Billingham v Whickham; Eppleton CW v West Auckland; Ferryhill v Tow Law.
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Nantwich v Kidsgrove; Prescot v Skelmersdale.
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Brighton v Swindon (2.00); Tottenham v Bristol City (at St Albans FC); Charlton v Millwall (7.00); Crystal Palace v Queens Park Rangers (at Dulwich Hamlet FC, 7.00); Ipswich v Chelsea (at Bury St Edmunds FC); Luton v Bristol Rovers; Norwich v Arsenal; Oxford Utd v Southampton; Watford v Wimbledon. Second division: Bath v Torquay; Cardiff v Swansea (2.00).
PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Leeds v Manchester Utd (7.00); Oldham v Derby (7.00). Second division: Aston Villa v Leicester (7.00); Barnsley v Sunderland (7.00); Blackpool v Middlesbrough (7.00).
FA YOUTH CUP: Second round: Leyton Orient v Enfield; Everton v Tranmere; Manchester City v Huddersfield.
HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Nairn County v Fraserburgh.
CALOR COUNTY ANTRIM SHIELD: Second round: Ards v Crusaders; Carrick v Portadown; Glentoran v Ballymena; Larne v Glenavon.
SCHOOLS MATCHES: Full Flim Trophy: Fourth round: Aldershot v Oxford (at Farnborough Town FC); Northampton v Nottingham (7.00).

RUGBY UNION

Heineken Cup
Pool C
Leinster v Pontypridd (at Lansdowne Road, 7.15)
Tennents inter-district championship
Scottish Exiles v Edinburgh (at Richmond, 5.00)
North and Midlands v Glasgow (at Kirkcaldy, 7.00)
ROYAL NAVY CUP: Final: Royal Marines (Plymouth) v Naval Air Command (at Burnaby Road, Portsmouth, 2.30).
CLUB MATCH: High Wycombe v Reading.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones championship
Second division
Hunslet v Barrow
TOUR MATCH: Cumbria Under-18 v Australian Schoolboys (at Whitehaven).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Birmingham v Derby (7.15); Leicester v Manchester Giants (8.00); Worthing v London Towers (8.00).

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Sheikh Mohammed further reduces yearlings in training

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

THE number of yearlings placed in training by Sheikh Mohammed's powerful Darley Stud management company is being reduced for the second year running — and two more trainers have lost his patronage.

Geoff Wragg and Peter Chapple-Hyam are the latest casualties as the world's most powerful owner has decided to cut back numbers of young horses sent to trainers — mainly in England, France and Ireland — from 280 a year ago to 243.

The rationalisation, due in part to the success of the Sheikh's Dubai-based Godolphin operation, means he has trimmed his yearling allocation by more than 30 per cent in the past two years.

This year's reduction is inflated to a certain extent by his much publicised decision in the summer to sack Henry Cecil, who would have otherwise expected to receive around 20 yearlings. Nevertheless, English trainers have suffered worse than their European counterparts as their total intake is 130 compared to 182 a year ago.

The notable exception to the trend sees David Loder rewarded for an outstanding year, which included training Blue Duster, the champion two-year-old European filly, in the Sheikh's maroon and white silks. Loder is receiving 20 yearlings, compared to 15 a year ago, and only seven the previous season.

Loder's increased intake means he is now on a par with Michael Stoute and Luca Cumani. However, the lion's share — about 50 — of the Sheikh's bluebloods will go to his principal handler, John Gosden.

Mark Johnston, the successful Middleham trainer, is receiving half a dozen yearlings — three fewer than a year ago — with a similar number being allocated to Barry Hills and Bill Watts.

Although relations between André Fabre, the outstanding trainer in Europe, and Sheikh Mohammed went through a sticky patch earlier this year, a meeting at the time of the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe cleared the air and Fabre's intake has been increased to 35. Sheikh Mohammed's other French trainers are John Hammond, Nicolas Clement, Jean Claude Rouget and Henri Pantall. In Ireland, John Oxx and Dermot Weld remain his standard bearers.

The decision not to send yearlings to Wragg and Chapple-Hyam follows on from the announcement last year that Dick Hern, Guy Harwood, James Fanshawe and Paul Cole were no longer on his list of trainers.

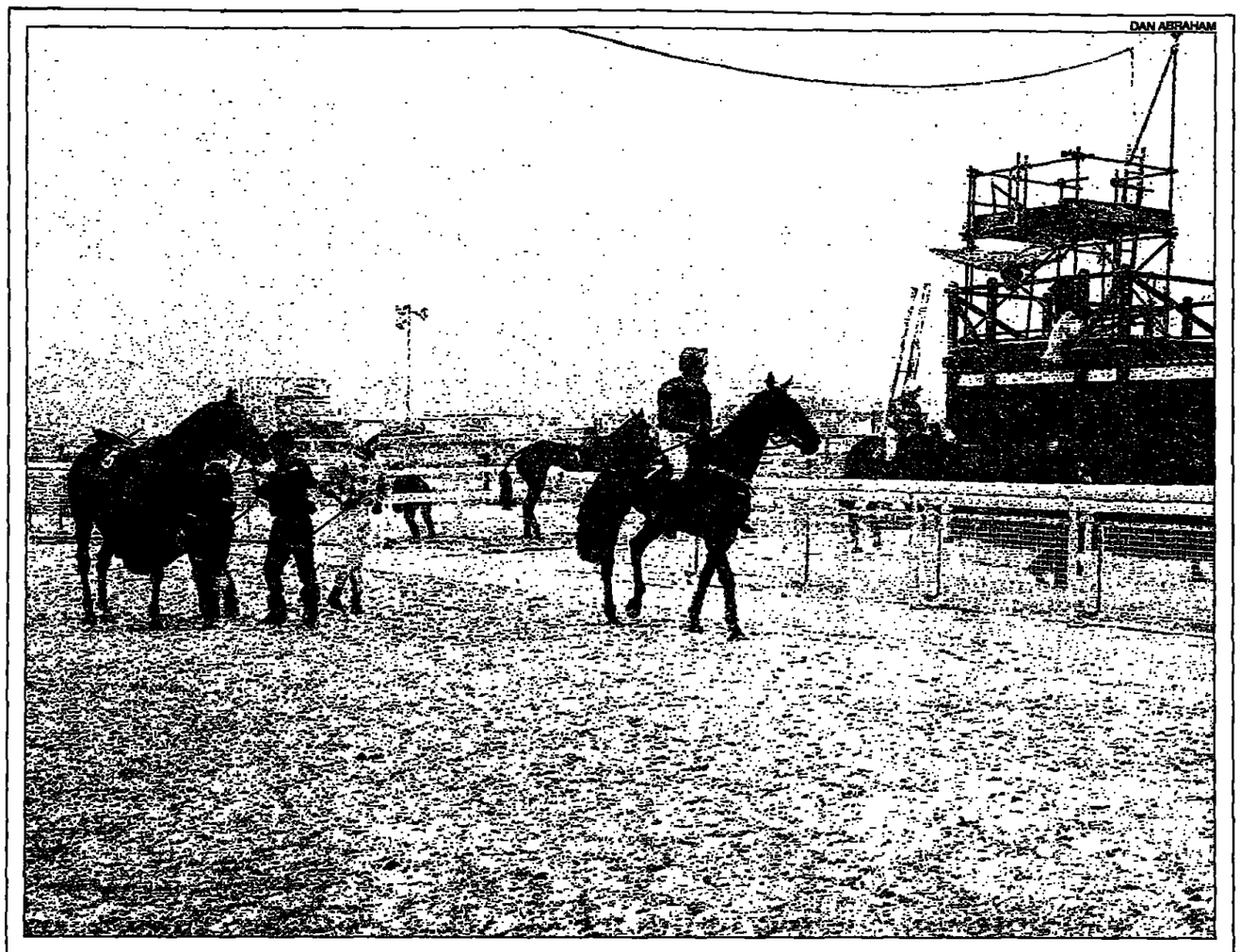
Anthony Stroud, the Sheikh's racing manager, explained last night: "The numbers of yearlings have decreased and there is rationalisation to try to make the management more controllable. You either go on supporting someone fully or not at all."

When Lord Hartington steps down from the British Horseracing Board next June, his place as a Jockey Club nominated director will be taken by Christopher Sporborg, who has wide experience on racing bodies.

However, just who will succeed Michael Darnell as one of the three industry committee directors on the BHB will not be known until the end of next month. Matthew McCloy, the industry committee chairman who is co-opted on to the board, remains favourite although some sections of racing are known to disapprove after his much publicised antics when travelling to the United States for the Breeders' Cup.

McCloy was handcuffed on a flight from Heathrow to New York by the captain of the aircraft, spent two nights in cells and subsequently admitted a charge of disorderly conduct. Some racing industry representatives believe he should have offered to resign as committee chairman.

However, even his critics acknowledge McCloy to be an excellent chairman and it remains to be seen whether he faces a challenge for the BHB vacancy. Nominations will close on January 3.



DAN ABRAHAM

Winter arrived with a vengeance at Plumpton yesterday, with the runners and riders being summoned back to the warmth of the stables minutes before the scheduled start of the fifth race. The decision upset Richard Rowe, a local trainer with runners entered in the last three races. Rowe, a former jockey, said: "I'm very disappointed but I don't blame the stewards — the jockeys panicked. Fair enough, it was snowing, but two minutes after they had abandoned there was brilliant sunshine." However, the opinion from the jockeys' room was that the decision was correct. Mark Richards said: "We were all in second gear because of the weather. You can't race properly out there." Racecourse officials for today's meetings were optimistic. Nick Lees, the clerk of the course at Leicester, reported "light snow flurries but no problems", while a representative at Sedgefield said: "We've only had hailstones, but snow is forecast."

LEICESTER

THUNDERER

1.00 TWICE A NIGHT (nap)
1.30 Rafter-J
2.00 Gilpa Valu
2.30 Challenger Du Luc
3.00 Coole Hill
3.30 Banana Cove

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 ..... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell, P — pulled up, U — unseated rider, B — brought down, S — slipped up, R — refused, D — disqualified). Horse's name. (Days since last outing, F fit flat, (B — blinkers, V — visor, H — hood, E — Eyeshield, C — course winner, D — distance winner, CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard, G — good, S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (CHASE COURSE); GOOD TO SOFT (HURDLES) SIS

1.00 BIRCH HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,574: 2m 4f 110yd) (10 runners)

1 22P2-P5 PLUNDER BAY 20 (C,S) (E & V Robins) H Henderson 4-11-12 ..... M A Fitzgerald 92
2 01F-001 JYMJAM JOHNNY 9 (S) (A Schwerieri) J J O'Neill 6-11-10 (bl) ..... A P McCoy 94
3 320442- BICKERMAN 258 (CD,F,G,S) (B Dowling) J Spearing 12-11-8 ..... Miss T Spearing (7) 95
4 /10641/ OUR SLUMBRIDGE 529F (D,F,G,S) (Mrs H Hogben) A Carroll 7-11-7 ..... B Powell -
5 2013-44 TWICE A NIGHT 8 (BF,F) (Ali In the Mind) D Nicholson 6-11-6 ..... W Marston 91
6 4122FF NO LIGHT 7 (F,G,S) (Allanstane Ltd) Mrs I McKie 8-11-4 ..... L Harvey 98
7 33313-0 KADARI 9 (B,S) (H Clewlow) W Clay 6-10-12 ..... J Lodder 88
8 6F1P3-6 DOCTOR DEATH 18 (S) (R Whitaker) S Dow 4-10-8 ..... A Dicken 92
9 2/65P-P ROMANS GLEN 12 (F) (Mrs W Morrell) M Wilkinson 8-10-0 ..... R Supple -
10 /5/030 ESCAPE TALK 18 (B) (Mrs S Doolan) J Dooler 8-10-0 ..... B Fenton (5) 89

Long handicap: Escape Talk 8-0.

BETTING: 7-2 Jymjam Johnny, 4-1 No Light, Twice A Night, 5-1 Plunder Bay, 7-1 Bickerman, 9-1 others.

1994: SILVER STANDARD 4-10-2 B Powell (9-2) T Forster 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

JYMJAM JOHNNY beat Eurobrest 1¼l in 6-runner handicap hurdle at Kelso (2m 2f, good to soft). BICKERMAN 6l 2nd of 10 to The Changeling in amateurs handicap hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, good to soft). TWICE A NIGHT 14½l 4th of 7 to Star Rage in handicap hurdle at Newcastle (2m, good). NO LIGHT 2l 2nd of 5 to Wandita in handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, firm) on latest hurdling start in October. Selection: JYMJAM JOHNNY

1.30 CHESTNUT CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HURDLE (£1,994: 2m) (5 runners)

1 P/F01 LITTLE BLACKFOOT 25 (S) (J Harris) J L Harris 7-11-5 ..... P McLoughlin (5) -
2 5441/0P VIAGGIO 5 (V,S) (K Martin) W Clay 7-11-6 ..... R Johnson -
3 P0 KINDAKOOLA 6 (B) (D G Cooper) M Chapman 4-11-0 ..... G Tormey -
4 PPP-D0 RAFTER-J 11 (W Mesh) J A Harris 4-11-0 ..... T Dascombe 92
5 SHEECKY 16F (Mrs Angela Grant) B McMahon 4-11-0 ..... M W Martin (5) -

BETTING: 5-4 Little Blackfoot, 7-4 Rafter-J, 5-1 Sheecky, 8-1 Viaggio, 12-1 Kindakoola.

1994: NIPPER REED 4-10-9 K Dempsey (12-1) R Simpson 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

LITTLE BLACKFOOT beat Deep Dawn 9l in 6-runner selling handicap hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, good to soft). VIAGGIO 27l last of 7 to Eskimo Nell in handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good) on penultimate start. RAFTER-J 16l 7th of 12 to Ardace in novice handicap hurdle at Warwick (3m, good). Selection: LITTLE BLACKFOOT

2.00 SYCAMORE HANDICAP CHASE (£3,655: 3m) (7 runners)

1 1P-1113 OVER THE STREAM 18 (D,F,G) J & E Gordon) K Bailey 9-12-0 T J Murphy (3) 96
2 1225-3 SPARTAN SILVER 46 (C,G) (Lord Somerleyton) N Gaselee 9-11-12 C Llewelyn 92
3 13-2213 ROMANY CREEK 20 (V,D,BF,F,G,S) (Duke Of Abbot) G Balding 6-11-4 A P McCoy 93
4 145-121 GILPA VALU 11 (D,F,G,S) (Miss N Thacker) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-0 W Marston 93
5 R0223-1 NICKLUP 18 (F,S) (Lord Cadogan) T Forster 8-11-0 ..... A Thornton 93
6 5/33155- MAWERNISH 283 (D,G,S) (R Hall) P Webber 13-10-6 ..... R Bellamy 94
7 5UU0-40 SUPPOSIN 11 (B,S) (J Kemp) Mrs S Smith 7-10-0 ..... R Guest -

Long handicap: Supposin 9-4.

BETTING: 9-4 Gilpa Valu, 11-4 Over The Stream, 4-1 Spartan Silver, 5-1 Nicklup, 6-1 Romany Creek, 14-1 Mawernish, 25-1 Supposin.

1994: MELEAGRIS 10-11-13 A Maguire (4-1) D Nicholson 13 ran

FORM FOCUS

OVER THE STREAM 12l 3rd to Young Hustler in 10-runner valuable handicap chase at Aintree (3m 3f, good to firm). SPARTAN SILVER 5l last to James Pigg in 3-runner handicap chase at Huntingdon (3m, firm). ROMANY CREEK 14½l 3rd of 12 to Smith's Band in handicap chase at Wincanton (3m 1f 110yd, good). GILPA VALU beat Equity Player 8l in 9-runner handicap chase at Warwick (3m 2f, good). NICKLUP beat Urban Cowboy 4l in 4-runner handicap chase at Towcester (2m 5f, good to firm). Selection: GILPA VALU

2.30 SPRUCE NOVICES CHASE (£3,236: 2m 4f 110yd) (7 runners)

1 1/4G/1P JACKSON FLINT 32 (F) (Mrs L Turner) T Thomson Jones 7-11-7 M A Fitzgerald 82
2 9009/14 SEATWIST 18 (F) (Mrs J Pickering) J Pickering 8-11-7 ..... M Sherrah -
3 4R5-39F AEDEAN 35 (S) (M Orpen-Palmer) G Enright 6-11-0 ..... J R Kavanagh 75
4 21231-2 CHALLENGER DU LUC 14 (B,S) (J & J Securities) M Pipe 5-11-0 D Bridgwater 88
5 P3200-3 FIXTURESSECRETARY 15 (B,F) (R Manley) D Nicholson 6-11-0 ..... W Marston 82
6 0/ LOBSTER COTTAGE 209 (R Burges) K Bailey 7-11-0 ..... A Thornton -
7 200-135 SAME DIFFERENCE 35 (F,B,S) (A Tombull) A Jarvis 7-11-0 ..... A P McCoy -

BETTING: 5-4 Challenger Du Luc, 5-2 Fixturessecretary, 7-1 Same Difference, 8-1 Jackson Flint, 12-1 Aedean, 14-1 Lobster Cottage, 16-1 Seatwist.

1994: SPARTAN SILVER 8-11-0 J R Kavanagh (10-1) N Gaselee 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

JACKSON FLINT beat Father Power 20l in 3-runner novice chase at Ascot (2m 3f 110yd, good to firm) on penultimate start. SEATWIST finished alone in 3-runner maiden chase at Towcester (2m 110yd, firm). AEDEAN 11l 3rd of 7 to Hawaiian Youth in novice chase at Towcester (2m 110yd, good to soft) in October. CHALLENGER DU LUC head 2nd of 14 to Seek The Path in novice chase at Chepstow (2m 110yd, good to soft). FIXTURESECRETARY 19l 3rd of 8 to Rivage Bleu in novice handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m 4f 110yd, good). SAME DIFFERENCE 5l 3rd to Smith Too in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (3md, firm). Selection: CHALLENGER DU LUC

3.00 ASH MARES ONLY NOVICES HURDLE (£2,721: 2m) (16 runners)

1 D BONITA BLAKENEY 21 (J Hanchilffe & L Stack) G Balding 5-11-0 ..... B Clifford -
2 004/ BOOLAVOGUE 586 (N Murphy) O O'Neill 5-11-0 ..... V Slattery -
3 BUZZARDS HALL 470F (D Cooper) M Chapman 5-11-0 ..... W Worthington -
4 CELTIC CEILIDH 223F (Mrs M Williams) Mrs M Reveley 4-11-0 ..... P Niven -
5 12-0 COOLE HILL 21 (G) (B Winfield) D Nicholson 4-11-0 ..... W Marston -
6 3 DOUCE MAISON 13 (Mrs A James) A James 4-11-0 ..... A P McCoy 88
7 5 IMOLA 16 (J Fenwick) Mrs D Haine 5-11-0 ..... G Hogan (3) -
8 000 KUDOS PRINCESS 13 (D Tucknell) Mrs A Naughton 5-11-0 ..... T Jenks -
9 4544 PASJA 25 (A Barrett) S Gollings 4-11-0 ..... J Osborne -
10 0- QUICK QUOTE 273 (M Barlow) Mrs I Mackie 5-11-0 ..... J Harvey -
11 0- RUBY'S GIRL 221 (B Higham) A Tinnell 5-11-0 ..... S McNeill -
12 5035-P SCAMALLACH 11 (Mrs S McCarthy) J Jenkins 5-11-0 ..... G Bradley -
13 14- SILVER SHRED 200 (F) (D Beresford) M Pipe 4-11-0 ..... D Bridgwater -
14 033/0- STRATHMORE LODGE 404 (J Jefferson) J Jefferson 6-11-0 ..... R Davis 73
15 2-23 SUPREME LADY 21 (BF) (Supreme Lady Partnership) Miss H Knight 4-11-0 J F Titley -
16 P- YENGEMA 132F (Mrs J Nicholls) R Spicer 4-11-0 ..... E Husband (3) -

BETTING: 5-2 Supreme Lady, 4-1 Coole Hill, 5-1 Silver Shred, 8-1 Celtic Ceilidh, 10-1 Douce Maison, 12-1 Imola, 16-1 others.

1994: MOMENT OF GLORY 4-11-2 G Bradley (7-1) D Gandolfo 15 ran

FORM FOCUS

CELTIC CEILIDH 4l 2nd of 10 to Misty Silks in handicap on Flat here (1m, soft) in March. COOLE HILL 1½l 2nd of 17 to Anglesey Sea View in National Hunt Flat race at Bangor (2m 1f, good) on penultimate start with SILVER SHRED 25½l 4th. DOUCE MAISON 15l 3rd of 14 to Hawkes Hustler in novice hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good). IMOLA 213¼l 5th of 8 to Grey Finch (disqualified) in novice hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, good to firm) PASJA 20l 4th of 18 to Peace Lord in maiden National Hunt Flat race at Market Rasen (1m 5f 110yd, good to soft). SILVER SHRED Convent Garden 3½l in 15-runner National Hunt Flat race at Hereford (2m 1f, good to firm) on penultimate start. STRATHMORE LODGE 27l 8th of 21 to Blue Laws in novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good). SUPREME LADY 2l 3rd of 17 to Kenford Tina in National Hunt Flat race at Hereford (2m 1f, good) with COOLE HILL (7lb better off) 37l 9th. Selection: SUPREME LADY (nap)

3.30 OAK HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,343: 2m) (9 runners)

1 16254-1 ONCE MORE FOR LUCK 13 (D,F,G) Mrs M Reveley 4-11-12 ..... P Niven 98
2 143426- FAIR AND FANCY 20F (D,G) (F And F Partners) Miss M Milligan 4-11-9 R Guest 88
3 5/06/60 FLY BY NORTH 6 (G,S) (Ford Farm Racing) D Nicholson 7-11-7 X Aizpuru (7) 89
4 322-040 HASHAR 13 (D,F) (P Wegmann) P Wegmann 7-11-7 ..... T Eley 89
5 510-3PU BANANA COVE 6 (F) (C Cheney) W Clay 4-11-4 ..... J Lodder 97
6 3/0B610- MERCADO 280 (V,G,S) (Maidenwell Ltd) F Yardley 8-11-0 ..... D Gallagher 94
7 40/2250- SHARED GOLD 329 (D,S) (P Deal) J Bosley 5-10-13 ..... M Bosley 98
8 00/0540- MY LINDAMINE 199F (CD,S) (B Sale) J Dooler 8-10-0 ..... A P McCoy 85
9 0P52P/0 MASTER MURPHY 14 (Mrs S Hemsley) C Broad 6-10-0 ..... W Marston -

Long handicap: My Lindamine 9-5, Master Murphy 9-2.

BETTING: 5-4 Once More For Luck, 4-1 Fly By North, 6-1 Fair And Fancy, Banana Cove, 7-1 Hashar, 14-1 Mercado, 16-1 others.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

ONCE MORE FOR LUCK beat Abbot of Furness 4l in 8-runner handicap hurdle at Carlisle (2m 1f, good). FAIR AND FANCY 10l 2nd to Golden Hello in 8-runner handicap hurdle at Newcastle (2m 110yd, good to firm) on penultimate jumps start. Ran on Flat at Southwell last month. FLY BY NORTH 15l 8th to Most Equal in 10-runner conditional jockeys handicap hurdle over course and distance (good to soft) with BANANA COVE (5lb better off) close up when unseated rider 3 out. BANANA COVE 3l 3rd to No Light in 8-runner handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m, good to firm) in October. Selection: ONCE MORE FOR LUCK

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
S Dow	3	5	60.0	C Llewellyn	6	26	23.1
N Gaselee	4	12	33.3	J R Kavanagh	3	14	21.4
M Henderson	5	16	31.3	G Bradley	5	27	18.5
D Nicholson	12	42	28.6	M A Fitzgerald	5	29	17.2
M Pipe	19	73	26.0	L Harvey	3	18	16.7
Mrs J Pitman	13	56	23.2	J Osborne	5	32	15.6

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Huntingdon

Going: good to soft

12.50 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Barney's Gift (M Brennan, 8-1); 2, Nocatchim (4-1); 3, Fontainejas (5-1). Wordsmith 100-30 fav 12 ran. 3½l, 1¾l, O Brennan. Tote: £8.70; £2.50, £2.20, £1.10. DF: £16.10. Tno: £18.50 CSF: £41.29.

1.00 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Sheilas Hillcrest (S Haworth, 9-1). 2, Sizzling Affair (8-1); 3, Corly Special (12-1). Sharp Performer 11-10 fav (l). 7 ran. 2l, 1l. N Mason. Tote: £14.50; £2.90, £3.60. DF: £45.80. CSF: £59.01.

1.30 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Brockure Bay (P Niven, 9-2), 2, Run For Dante (12-1); 3, Elfisa (Evans fav) 8 ran. 8l, 19l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £4.90; £1.20, £2.60, £2.00. DF: £28.40. CSF: £51.42. Tricast: £87.04.

2.00 (2m 110yd ch) 1, Annie Kelly (S Dalton, 7-1); 2, Newhall Prince (11-10 fav), 3, Flapjack Lad (5-2). 7 ran. 3l, 9l. J Wharton. Tote: £8.90; £3.80, £1.40. DF: £9.10. CSF: £14.89.

2.30 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Iggins (P Hide, 14-1), 2, Welsh Mill (11-2); 3, Monks Soham (40-1). Hawker Hunter Evens fav. 19 ran. NR: Rival Bid 1wl, 3½l. J Gifford. Tote: £11.60; £2.10, £1.60, £7.60. DF: £27.50 CSF: £98.20.

3.00 (3m chi) 1, Master Orchestra (J F Titley, 6-4 fav), 2, Sedge Warbler (12-1); 3, Chalk Richards (14-1) 17 ran. NR: The Bosley House. 3½l, 20l. Miss H Knight. Tote: £3.20; £1.60, £4.50, £5.00. DF: £27.40. Trio: £166.80 CSF: £24.64.

3.30 (2m 110yd flat) 1, Mighty Moss (Mr F Hutsby, 10-1); 2, Potter's Gale (5-1); 3, Tillyboy (9-2). Golden Punch 4-1 fav. 16 ran. 3l, ¾l. D Nicholson. Tote: £16.90; £3.50, £3.30, £1.70. DF: £31.30. Trio: £33.60 CSF: £71.94. Jackpot: not won (pool of £47,159.06 carried forward to Lingfield today). Placepot: £777.20. Quadpot: £28.80.

Plumpton

Going: soft

12.15 (2m 1f hdle) 1, False Creek (M Richards, 16-1), 2, Robins Pride (4-1); 3, Rakaposhi Queen (10-1). Pair Of Jacks 2-1 fav. 9 ran. NR: Raby 6l, 4l. G Harwood. Tote: £16.90; £3.10, £1.70, £7.10. DF: £19.00. Trio: £25.30 CSF: £75.81.

12.45 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Queenford Belle (G F Ryan, 7-1); 2, Robero (3-1 fav), 3, Script (4-1). 13 ran. NR: Mrs Barty 15l, dist. Miss H Knight. Tote: £11.10; £2.00, £1.50, £2.30. DF: £19.90. Trio: £16.00. CSF: £27.91

1.15 (2m chi) 1, Le Chat Noir (D Bridgwater, 12-1). 2, The Carrot Man (5-6 fav); 3, Super Tactics (11-2). 6 ran. 1¼l, 10l. D Gissalt. Tote: £14.90; £2.10, £1.10. DF: £9.40. CSF: £22.27.

1.45 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Head For Heaven (G Bradley, 9-4); 2, Challenger Row (Evens fav); 3, Vero (25-1). 6 ran. 3l, dist. R Hoad. Tote: £3.50; £2.10, £1.20. DF: £1.90. CSF: £4.60.

Placepot: £17.40 Quadpot: £1.90.

☐ Reminder of meeting abandoned because of snow.

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Dobbin to miss One Man ride as injury forces delay

BY OUR RACING STAFF

TONY DOBBIN, who broke his right hand and dislocated his shoulder in a fall at Catterick three weeks ago, yesterday conceded the battle to be fit to ride One Man in the Tommy Whittle Chase at Haydock on Saturday. He has postponed his comeback until next week.

As a result, Mark Dwyer, due to ride One Man in the Hennessy until his late withdrawal, has been offered the mount again but cannot confirm his availability until connections of Jodami finalise their plans.

Dobbin's decision to ride out on One Man at Gordon Richards's Greystoke stables yesterday appears to have set back his return to racecourse action. His agent, Richard Hale, said: "Riding out yesterday has put him back a week or so. He has ridden out this morning but only on the roads. He is now aiming to return at Bangor next Wednesday and will be back at Gordon Richards's at the weekend. Although his hand has healed, his shoulder ligaments are still a bit strained."

Richards, who intends running One Man provided the going does not become too testing, is now waiting on Dwyer whose first commitment is to Jodami, also engaged in the Tommy Whittle.

"It's very frustrating for young Tony," he said. "He's trying hard to get fit. He came in this morning and will keep coming in. I'm now waiting on Mark Dwyer, but I know Peter Beaumont will not want to keep us hanging on."

Beaumont has promised a decision on Jodami, 8lb better off with One Man for a seven lengths beating at Ayr, as soon as he has consulted the owner, John Yeadon.

"It's very much 50-50. We are keen for him to go to Wetherby on Boxing Day and we don't want him to have a slog in bad ground a fortnight before the race," he said yesterday.

"Obviously, the presence of One Man is another consideration because we are still giving him a fair bit of weight. We will make up our minds as soon as possible. We don't want to keep Mark waiting too long."

Should Dwyer be claimed for Jodami, Richards could turn to Richard Dunwoody, although the champion is due to ride at Lingfield for Kim Bailey on Saturday.

SEDGEFIELD

THUNDERER

12.50 Magslad. 1.20 South Westerly. 1.50 Aly Daley. 2.20 Heathview. 2.50 Willie Sparkle. 3.20 General Chaos.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.20 DESERT FIGHTER.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

12.50 GOLDEN LION NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,383: 2m 5f 110yd) (17 runners)

1 1116 MAGSLAD 22 (CD,F) J J O'Neill 5-11-4 ..... A Roche (3) -
2 P00- CALIPO BELLO 251 F Murphy 5-10-12 ..... D J Kavanagh (5) -
3 50 CASH BOX 11 T Carr 7-10-12 ..... B Storey 77
4 -U23 DALUSMAN 19 J Bethell 7-10-12 ..... M Moloney 98
5 HIGHLAND WAY M Todhunter 7-10-12 ..... R Garritty -
6 00-4 KITTOCKSIDE LAD 16 Mrs S Austin 5-10-12 ..... D Wilkinson 74
7 MASKIN BROOK W Barker 7-10-12 ..... S Hodder -
8 0P0- MINI CRUISE 207 J Howard Johnson 5-10-12 ..... P Carberry -
9 024 ONE MORE BILL 16 J Wade 5-10-12 ..... K Jones -
10 600/ ORWELL ROSS 1161 F Kirby 7-10-12 ..... J Railton -
11 /0P- PERCY PIT 284 H Alexander 6-10-12 ..... L Wyer -
12 30-5 RON ON THE RUN 18 J Quinn 5-10-12 ..... M Dwyer -
13 SAYRAF DANCER Mrs A Naughton 6-10-12 ..... M Foster -
14 /P-0 WHATDIDYOUSAY 16 B Bousfield 7-10-12 ..... G Lee (3) 91
15 P/6- DERRY'S DELIGHT 256P T Etherington 8-10-7 R Rosario (7) -
16 60-3 MISS LAMPLIGHT 21 F Murtagh 5-10-7 ..... B Harding (5) 92
17 50-4 RASCALLY 11 Miss L Siddall 5-10-7 ..... F Leahy (3) 84

7-2 Magslad, 5-1 Rascally, 6-1 Whatdidyousay, 7-1 Dalusman, 8-1 Miss Lamplight, 12-1 Ron On The Run, 14-1 others.

1.20 DICKIE DODS MEMORIAL HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,268: 3m 3f 110yd) (6)

1 1-15 URON V 27 (F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 5-12-0 ..... G Cahill (7) 90
2 1111 SOUTH WESTERLY 8 (F,G) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-4 G Lee (3) 98
3 P3-3 TROODOS 18 (CD,F,G) Mrs S Austin 9-11-3 ..... D Wilkinson 82
4 6/5 MORNING IN MAY B J Howard Johnson 7-11-1 ..... P Carberry -
5 152P TOUGH TEST 11 (F) Mrs J Goodfellow 5-10-0 ..... B Storey 89
6 6541 CLASSIC STATEMENT 41 (V,CD,F,S) J Hellens 9-10-0 ..... S Taylor (7) 96

5-4 South Westerly, 4-1 Uron V, 5-1 Troodos, 6-1 Tough Test, 7-1 others.

1.50 NAGS HEAD MAIDEN CHASE (£2,861: 3m 3f) (8)

1 4-33 ALY DALEY 22 J Howard Johnson 7-11-0 ..... P Carberry -
2 -430 AYLESBURY LAD 14 D Lamb 6-11-0 ..... A Mansers (7) 76
3 6-F0 CROMBIE FOX 9 S Robinson 9-11-0 ..... N Bentley -
4 55-P MISTER HOCHBERG 18 (V,F,S) Mrs Ward 9-11-0 ..... D Parker (3) 90
5 FF0U MORE JOY 8 Mrs L Marshall 7-11-0 ..... Mr K Whelan (5) -
6 -424 RUSSIAN CASTLE 16 J Wade 6-11-0 ..... K Jones 91
7 2- WOODVILLA 295 T Carr 7-11-0 ..... B Storey -
8 0U-5 JUST MOLLY 30 W Reed 8-10-9 ..... T Reed 88

7-4 Aly Daley, 4-1 Woodville, 9-2 Russian Castle, 5-1 Aylesbury Lad, 10-1 others.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

12.40 Colston-C. 1.10 Cheeky Chappy. 1.40 Milngavie. 2.10 Awesome Power. 2.40 Ballymoney. 3.10 Time Clash. 3.40 Whatever's Right.

GOING: STANDARD SIS

DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

12.40 EQUITABLE HOLDINGS HANDICAP (Div I: £2,656: 5f) (9 runners)

101 0004 NORDICO PRINCESS 8 (CD,F,G,S) M Britain 4-10-0 S Webster 7
102 5202 KALAR 6 (B,CD,BF,F,G) D Chapman 8-9-13 ..... P Fessey (5) 2
103 0040 ROBO MAGIC 11 (C,F,G) L Montague Hall 3-8-9 ..... S Sanders 3
104 5031 HALF TONE 6 (B,CD,G) R Flower 3-9-4 (7ex) ..... D Biggs 6
105 0343 TEE-EMM 8 (CD,F,G) P Howling 5-9-0 ..... J Quinn 4
106 1003 COLSTON-C 6 (F) C Hill 3-8-9 ..... S Whitworth 5
107 0104 ANYTIME BABY 6 (CD,G) P Dalton 3-8-7 ..... S D Williams 1
108 0033 NEWINGTON BUTTS 6 K McAuliffe 5-8-3 ..... G Duffield 9
109 0600 TOMMY TEMPEST 5 (V,CD,G,S) R Peacock 8-8-1 P McCabe (5) 8

7-2 Ixias, 4-1 Half Tone, 5-1 Newington Butts, 6-1 Nordico Princess, Tee-Emm, Anytime Baby, 7-1 Colston-C, 10-1 others.

1.10 EQUITABLE HOLDINGS HANDICAP (Div II: £2,656: 5f) (8)

201 0000 ASHTINA 11 (C,D,F,G,S) B Pearce 10-9-10 ..... T Ives 1
202 3113 SOUTHERN DOMINION 6 (C,D,BF,G) M Johnston 3-9-4 ..... T Williams 5
203 0060 LOCHON 51 (D,F,G) J Eyre 4-8-13 ..... R Lappin 8
204 0035 ROCKY TWO 6 (B,D,G) P Howling 4-8-12 ..... J Quinn 9
205 1252 SHARP IMP 6 (B,F) R Flower 5-8-8 ..... D Biggs 7
206 2161 CHEEKY CHAPPY 6 (B,CD,F,G) D Chapman 4-8-1 (7ex) ..... P Fessey (5) 2
207 1400 MAZZARELLO 58 (V,D,F,B) R Curtis 5-8-0 ..... G Bardwell 4
208 0000 RENNYHOLME 12 (B) J Hetherton 4-7-7 ..... N Varley (3) 3

7-4 Cheeky Chappy, 4-1 Sharp Imp, 9-2 Rocky Two, 5-1 Southern Dominion, 6-1 Lochon, 8-1 Ashtina, 10-1 others.

1.40 ROB ROT HANDICAP (£3,124: 1m 5f) (11)

301 0453 YOUGO 11 M Johnston 3-9-10 ..... T Williams 11
302 4004 VOLUNTEER 18J R O'Sullivan 3-9-6 ..... G Duffield 8
303 606/ NATIVE CHIEFTAIN 15J (C,G) S Dow 6-9-0 P Brookwood (7) 10
304 6004 BROUGHTONS FORMULA 11 (B,CD,F,G) W Musson 5-8-11 ..... P McCabe (3) 5
305 0001 BALLYNAKELLY 7 (C,G) R Akehurst 3-8-8 ..... T Ashley (7) 9
306 1405 OUTSTAYED WELCOME 25 (F) M Haynes 3-8-4 M Baird (5) 4
307 4200 PAT'S SPLENDOUR 26 (F) H Collingridge 4-8-3 ..... J Quinn 7
308 0530 SILKTAIL 50 (F) C Dwyer 3-8-2 ..... N Varley (3) 1
309 0400 MAFUTA 11 J Sheehan 3-7-9 ..... N Carlisle 6
310 4001 MILNGAVIE 30 (B,C,F,G,S) M Johnston 5-7-7 ..... N Adams 3
311 00R0 ANOTHER MONK 50J R Curtis 4-7-7 ..... G Bardwell 2

9-4 Ballynakelly, 4-1 Yougo, 9-2 Broughtons Formula, 5-1 Volunteer, 10-1 Outstayed Welcome, Milngavie, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: G Wragg, 11 winners from 27 runners, 40.7%; M Prescott, 29 from 98, 29.5%; T Barron, 8 from 39, 20.5%; K McAuliffe, 7 from 37, 18.9%, W O'Gorman, 35 from 188, 18.6%, M Johnston, 33 from 195, 16.9%.

JOCKEYS: Emma O'Gorman, 40 winners from 192 rides, 20.8%; T Ives, 16 from 102, 17.6%, G Duffield, 29 from 166, 17.5%; S Whitworth, 17 from 120, 14.2%; A Clark, 21 from 193, 10.9%; J Tate, 5 from 47, 10.6%.

2.20 HARDWICK ARMS HANDICAP CHASE (£2,747: 2m 1f) (7)

1 5231 FLASH OF REALM 7 (F,G,S) P Monteith 9-12-2 (8ex) G Cahill (7) 90
2 23P- WAIT YOU THERE 203 (C,F,G,S) H Alexander 10-12-0 Mr S Swiers 89
3 3322 PRECIPICE RUN 13 (D,G,S) G Richards 10-11-13 B Harding (3) 96
4 44-0 SONSIE MO 25 (C,D,F,G,S) Mrs S Bradburne 10-11-3 B Storey 91
5 18P- JOCK'S BURN 345 (G,S) W McKeown 9-10-8 ..... A Sherlford 97
6 P-03 NORTH PRIDE 7 (F,S) M Barnes 10-10-7 ..... P Waggott 94
7 3233 HEATHVIEW 14 (D,F,G,S) J Fitzgerald 8-10-0 ..... F Leahy (3) 98

7-4 Precipice Run, 7-2 Flash Of Realm, 9-2 North Pride, 5-1 Heathview, 6-1 Wait You There, 16-1 Sonsie Mo, 20-1 Jock's Burn.

2.50 HOPE INN HANDICAP CHASE (£2,861: 2m 5f) (11)

1 3-44 NOTABLE EXCEPTION 14 (F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 6-12-0 G Lee (3) -
2 1-21 THE TOASTER 18 (D,F,G,S) J Quinn 8-11-8 ..... M Dwyer 84
3 0-F1 JOE WHITE 29 (CD,F,G) J Howard Johnson 9-11-7 P Carberry 93
4 3380 BLAZING DAWN 11 (C,F,G,S) J Hubbuck 8-10-10 ..... B Storey 90
5 0-32 JUKE BOX BILLY 27 (BF,F) P Monteith 7-10-6 B Harding (3) 86
6 F4-P DESIS MARSHALL 81 J Wade 7-10-5 ..... K Jones 91
7 5-34 BAD TRADE 29 (G,S) D Alder 13-10-4 ..... D Parker (3) 85
8 22F1 WILLIE SPARKLE 33 (F,G,S) Mrs S Bradburne 9-10-4 A Wait (7) 97
9 63/0 POTATO MAN 14 (S) D Lamb 9-10-4 ..... A Adams 6
10 4064 REBEL KING 14 (G) M Barnes 5-10-0 ..... P Waggott 73
11 6532 DOXFORD HUT 14 (F) W McKeown 11-10-0 ..... G Cahill (7) 83

A loyal servant laments game of professionals

Much has happened in the hundred days since rugby union was declared open. In the second of our three-part series John Allen tells **David Hands**, *rugby correspondent, about the opposition to professionalism that caused him to resign from Leicester after 34 years*



Five days after the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) changed irrevocably the nature of rugby union, by permitting overt professionalism, John Allen resigned as honorary secretary of Leicester, England's league champions. A fit of pique, a parting gesture by a reactionary? Hardly.

The paradox inherent in Allen's decision, at the age of 53, to sever formal links with the club he had served as player and administrator for 34 years was that Leicester was, and is, the nearest English rugby has to a professional organisation. Yet it reached that position through the efforts of devoted amateurs guided, cajoled, sometimes hectored by Allen.

Frequently he irritated colleagues by the precision of his views yet not one would deny his reputation for fair dealing. Allen's capacity for work was remarkable, not only at his club but on sundry committees run either by the Rugby Football Union or the National Clubs Association.

No other club in the country has the facilities of Leicester, though the forward planning for the complete refurbishment of its two ageing main stands for a new millennium may now be forced on to the back burner by the necessity to pay players. No other club has a membership remotely approaching Leicester's 14,000, who have made the Tigers so vital a part of life in their city.

Allen knows better than most the value of the flesh and blood, the bricks and mortar that make up Welford Road, where Leicester have had their home for 103 years. As a partner in a chartered accountancy firm, the "bottom line" is his job and he applied his professional skills freely on Leicester's behalf.

Allen played scrum half for the club between 1961-75; no sooner had he retired than he became treasurer and, in 1982, secretary. That is a lifelong commitment difficult to walk away from yet, when amateurism was erased from rugby's regulations, Allen did so. Not severing relationships completely, but standing back from a development which could not offer him the satisfaction he wanted.

"We always tried to run the club on business-like lines while retaining the best features of a rugby club," Allen said. "The important thing, which was true of a long line of secretaries before me, was that they had a sympathy for rugby first and foremost and then applied their business sense on the club's behalf.

"What I'm afraid of now is that rugby clubs will be run as businesses, full stop. We at Leicester have been seen as leaders in various commercial areas — in sponsorship, in our internal organisation — but we retained the involvement of members in many areas, probably more so than a lot of other clubs. That remains for the time being but no one knows how long it will last.

"By force of circumstance you are more likely in future to take on people who see rugby only as a business, without necessarily having an affinity for the game. I don't think we built the seeds of professionalism here, we merely applied sensible business methods.

"The significant end was the financial one, ensuring the club was run on an even keel and what happened to the money. Facilities for the players, the members and the crowds we started to pull in developed hand-in-hand. Even so, administration is something you do to ensure the club runs smoothly but, in the end, it's all about the playing side, that's why I stayed involved.

"Now the relationship has changed fundamentally. For many years we have enjoyed tremendous loyalty from our players, who might have gone elsewhere but stayed because they wanted to play for Leicester. If you put money in people's pockets, you give up on loyalty. I didn't want the employer-employee relationship. I can get that from nine to five in the office. I don't have to do it in my spare time.

"Over the past two years, a professional game has become inevitable and I had made my decision before the IRFB made theirs. Because it was my decision, and not one forced on me by others, I found it easy to make, though I miss the involvement with players, with selection and so on.

"The best thing about the amateur game was that people had careers, they had something after rugby. I worry that players will get into the same syndrome as footballers, though it is encouraging to hear players like Martin Johnson [the England lock] taking a responsible attitude about his job, which he wants to protect.

"My other worry is for clubs who jump into bed with entrepreneurs, which could create all sorts of problems if it is not managed with care. Rugby has always been a different sport to football and I don't think you can just replicate what happens in football and expect success.

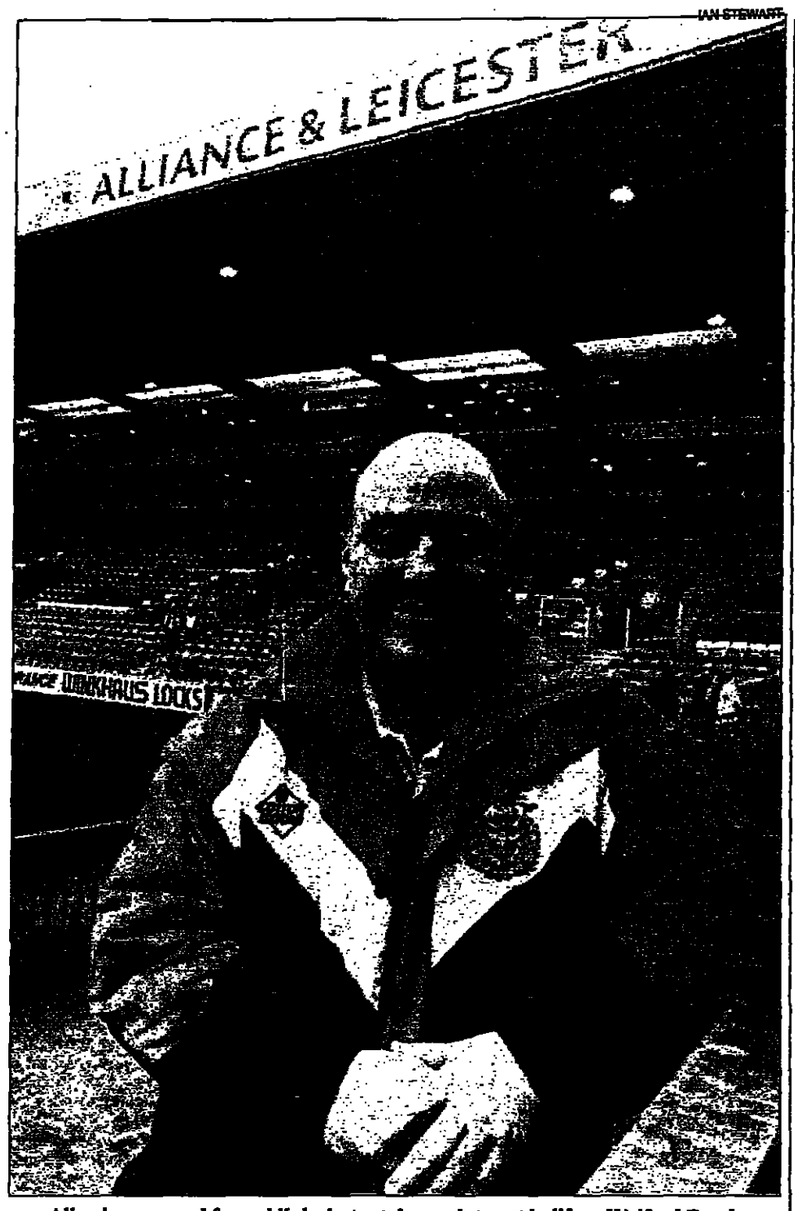
"I read of certain clubs who seem prepared to hand over the development rights to their ground upon which, over the years, they have invested so much time and money — if their new owner seeks to withdraw, they could find it built over in ten years' time. Managers in football, coaches in rugby do not necessarily have the right financial perspective.

"I believe we are in for a couple of years of chaos before things settle. Will I become involved again after that? I don't know . . . the relationship won't be the same."

TOMORROW
The new model professional

OPEN RUGBY'S FIRST 100 DAYS

Aug 27: International Board declares rugby union an open game
Aug 29: Mike Catt styles himself England's first full-time rugby player
Aug 30: Will Carling, England captain, advises players to keep day jobs
Sep 1: John Allen resigns as honorary secretary of Leicester
Sep 4: Newcastle United announce merger with Newcastle Gosforth
Sep 7: RFU announces season-long moratorium; New Zealand RFU announces free gangway for rugby league players
Sep 8: South African RFU announces moratorium on transfers
Sep 13: French rugby to stay "amateur"
Sep 14: Tony Underwood, England wing, turns "semi-professional"
Sep 19: English clubs form first-division company
Sep 21: Rob Andrew appointed director of rugby at Newcastle
Oct 1: International Board approves gangway between league and union codes
Oct 5: Sir John Hall, chairman of Newcastle United, meets Tony Hallett, RFU secretary
Oct 11: Bristol announce conditional contracts for players
Oct 16: Dean Ryan, Wasps captain, joins Newcastle as administrative assistant
Oct 19: Rob Andrew retires from international rugby and leaves Wasps; Ireland prop Nick Popplewell to join Newcastle
Oct 24: Kerry Packer alleged to be planning breakaway club tournament
Oct 31: Jonathan Davies leaves Warrington rugby league club and returns to Wales as a Cardiff player
Oct 31: Martin Bayfield, England lock, takes five-year sabbatical from police to concentrate on rugby; Tony Underwood leaves Leicester for Newcastle; Welsh internationals Mike Hall and Gareth Llewellyn sign provisional forms for Wasps
Nov 1: London Broncos play on Harlequins' rugby union ground
Nov 6: English first-division clubs seek £1 million each in new money
Nov 7: Businessman Nigel Wray to invest £2.5 million in Saracens; RFU Commission on restructured game recommends late-season five nations' championship, European and Anglo-Welsh leagues
Nov 17: RFU approves payment for national team management
Nov 28: RFU vetoes return of John Gallagher, former All Black and rugby league player, to play rugby union
Nov 30: Businessman Keith Barwell to invest £1 million in Northampton
Dec 5: Matches proposed between Bath and Wigan



Allen has severed formal links but retains an interest in life at Welford Road

Dawson aware of opportunity to link up with England

By David Hands

LOOSE talk, it used to be said during the Second World War, costs lives. There has been a lot of loose talk about England's playing objectives over the past year, much of it misunderstood by players and public alike, which has cost the national side sympathy and possibly matches.

Today we may see just how bold the England selectors are prepared to be when they name their XV to play Western Samoa at Twickenham on December 16, a match which offers the perfect opportunity for the kind of experimentation from which — in the amateur era — England frequently retreated.

Overshadowing their thinking will be the first match of the five nations' championship, against France in Paris on January 20. But it should not cast too long a shadow: England have to set their own agenda and if that means losing games, as Jack Rowell, the manager, has tried to emphasise, their supporters will have to live with it. Team development is a gradual process and there is a lot of developing to be done.

Central to the issue are the half backs. Against South Africa last month, England, so long with Rob Andrew's hand on the tiller, were rudderless. But should this mean that Mike Catt is not the answer at stand-off half, after only one stiff examination against the world champions? Andrew, after all, was permitted to grow into the role and Catt, who played well at No 10 against the Samoans during the World Cup, deserves another chance, if only for his innate footballing ability.

But the names of the two impressive Midlands half backs, Paul Grayson and Matt Dawson, will have been seriously discussed. Grayson has grown in stature over the past 12 months, maturing nicely in Ian McGeechan's hands at Northampton, accepting responsibility during the A tour of Australia in the summer and playing against the Samoans last Saturday the kind of thoughtful game English players appreciate.

Dawson throws an even larger spanner into England's works. His play this season has been everything that Kyran Bracken's has not, admittedly without the same pressure: alert, positive, above all varied. Bracken has forgotten to ask the questions of opponents he was all too ready to do two years ago; his selection would be a mark of faith and perhaps a last chance for the Bristol scrum half, now that he knows Dawson is on his heels.

The other main areas of debate will have been front row and back row. Graham Rowntree can scarcely do more in his demand for selection at loose-head prop than perform as he has, with both Jason Leonard and Victor Ubogu having struggled for form, and Lawrence Dallaglio can be considered a candidate on either flank. The temptation may be to play Dallaglio on the open side, at the expense of Andy Robinson, even though Robinson's game



Dawson: positive

should prosper far more against the Samoans.

In all of this there is no great evidence of the sheer rugby nous that a player such as Dean Richards provided. The selectors will not go back to Richards now, nor are they likely to rest Will Carling after his recovery from concussion; instead they may hope that the quiet man of the England pack, Martin Johnson, whose rugby education included valuable years in New Zealand, can start pulling a few strings.

My selection against Western Samoa would be: J Callard; D Hopley, P de Glanville, J Guscott, R Underwood; M Catt, M Dawson; G Rowntree, M Regan, J Leonard, L Dallaglio, M Johnson, M Bayfield, A Robinson, B Clarke (captain).

THE TIMES

100

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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

This is another example of squeeze end-play.

Dealer West — **Love all** — **Rubber bridge**

	♠543 ♥AJ5 ♦32 ♣Q9763	
♠J2 ♥10987642 ♦1097 ♣2	N W E S	♠AK109 ♥KQ3 ♦4 ♣A10854
	♠Q876 ♥— ♦AKQJ865 ♣KJ	

Contract: 3 NT doubled, by South. Lead: Two of Clubs

East had a torrid time on this recent hand from the TGR high game. South was Lionel Wright, the club manager.

East opened One Club after two passes and Wright surprisingly started by overcalling with One Spade. That drew a Two Spade bid from North, so South reasonably gambled his partner would have a heartstopper and bid 3 NT. When that went back to East, he unwisely doubled. No doubt he was hoping that one or other of the opponents would run to Four Spades but that was improbable — South almost certainly had a concealed diamond suit and North had already acquiesced to 3 NT.

East led the two of clubs, an obvious singleton. West won (South playing the king) and returned a club. South could have made certain of his contract by overtaking the jack to cash the ace of hearts before running the diamonds. However, he could see that East would be in trouble on the run of the diamonds and might not realise that South was void in hearts. So South won the club in hand and started on the diamonds.

After all the diamonds had been played off there were four cards left. East was down to the ace of spades, the king of hearts and ten and four of clubs; when South exited with a spade, East had to give the dummy the last two tricks. Declarer made 11 tricks.

By the time East had to discard on the fourth diamond he should have worked out that South was 4-0-7-2. He could have saved the overtricks by coming down to A K 10 9 of spades for his last four cards.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Attacking genius

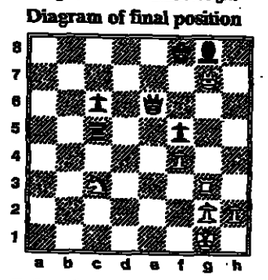
One of the greatest attacking players in modern chess is the young Latvian Grandmaster Alexei Shirov. His attacks rain down with elemental force and he has been responsible for creating some of the most intricate masterpieces of aggression on the chessboard in recent tournaments. His main weakness is a nervous disposition which has caused him to falter at crucial moments of qualifying competitions. In the following game from Belgrade his genius for attack is displayed to its greatest advantage.

White: Shirov
Black: Miladinovic
Belgrade, November 1995

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Qc7
5	Nc3	e6
6	Be2	a6
7	Be3	Nf6
8	0-0	Bb4
9	Na4	Be7
10	c4	Nxe4
11	c5	0-0
12	Rc1	f5
13	f4	Rb8
14	Bf3	Bf6
15	Bxe4	bxe4
16	Nxc6	bxc6
17	Rc4	Rd8
18	Rxe4	d5
19	cxd6	Rxd6
20	Qe2	Bd7
21	b4	a5
22	a3	axb4
23	axb4	Be8
24	Bc5	Rd5
25	Rxe8	Bf7
26	Rd6	gxd6
27	Nc3	Rxc5
28	bxc5	f5
29	Rf3	Re8
30	Re3	Ra8
31	Qf3	Ra5
32	Qg3+	Kf8
33	Qh4	Rxc5
34	Qxh7	Qd6
35	Qh8+	Bg8
36	Rg3	Qe6
37	Qg7+	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Schools' chess

Having sponsored the world chess championship in New York and the Paris Grand Prix, Intel are now supporting British schools' chess. To complement The *Times* Championship for schools' teams, Intel are supporting an individual schools tournament, hoping for 30,000 players to enter. So far, 12,000 entries have been received. For further information contact Michael Basman, the organiser, tel. 0181-397 1826. The deadline for entries is December 10.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

CAPERNAITE
a. A soft metal
b. A country dance
c. An eccentric believer

CRABSKUIT
a. A fishing-boat
b. Walking sideways
c. An Icelandic open sandwich

CLART
a. The leading hound
b. Glass
c. Filth

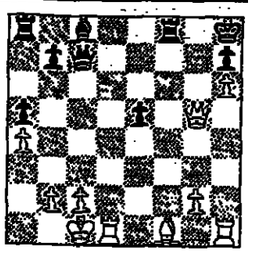
CONIUM
a. Hemlock
b. A drinking bowl
c. A dustbin

Answers on page 46

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Petjewitsch - Kastanjeda, Russia 1994. White is a pawn ahead with a strong attack and can expect to win easily. However, it is always pleasing to finish off the game, as White did here, with a clever combination. Can you see what White played?



Solution on page 46

هكذا من الاصل

Withdrawal of Jenkins will boost Leinster's prospects

BY DAVID HANDS

IT HAS been a good season for Ireland's provincial players: they have taken to the European stage, if not quite to the manor born in the case of Ulster, and they know that their efforts will be rewarded after the decision of the Irish Rugby Football Union to offer contracts at provincial as well as national level.

For none has it been a better season than Leinster, who take a six-match unbeaten run into tonight's Heineken Cup match with Pontypridd at Lansdowne Road knowing that victory will give them a home semi-final against either Cardiff or Bègles-Bordeaux. Moreover, their prospects have been distinctly improved by the withdrawal from Pontypridd's team of Neil Jenkins.

Jenkins, the Wales stand-off half and one of the best goal-kickers in world rugby, has a shoulder injury and gives way to Lee Jarvis, last season's Welsh Schools stand-off. It completes a woeful fortnight for the Welsh club, who beat Milan comfortably in their opening European match but then lost to Treorchy and struggled to beat Ebbw Vale, both from the lower reaches of the Heineken League.

While they have staggered, Leinster have sailed serenely on, building on their victories against three South African provincial teams. They left it late against Milan, a try by Niall Woods earning a 24-21 win, but they secured a handsome 42-26 win over the Irish Exiles in the inter-provincial championship last Saturday.

Such a scoring feat owed much to the power of the New Zealand-born centre, Kurt McQuilkin, who scored three tries. He has recovered from a knee injury while the international scrum half, Alain Rolland, has also been cleared to play after an injury.

Richard Cockerill, the Leicester and England A hooker, will make his first CIS Divisional Championship appearance of the season for the Midlands in Saturday's decider against the North at Beeston. Cockerill, who helped the Midlands to beat the Western Samoans 40-19 last weekend, replaces Tim Beddow, of Northampton.

Philippe Benetton, the France loose forward, will miss the five nations' championship next year after undergoing surgery on his right forearm. Benetton, of Agen, broke his arm for the second time in six months in a weekend match against Nice.

MIDLANDS: J Quantrill (Rugby Lions). A Smallwood (Nottingham), B Whetstone (Bedford), M Allen (Northampton), H Thorneycroft (Northampton); P Grayson (Northampton), J Farr (Winnington Park); M Volland (Northampton), R Cockerill (Leicester), N Webber (Moseley), J Phillips (Northampton), D Grewcock (Coventry), I Sturgsley (Bedford), B Pountney (Northampton), C Tarbuck (Leicester, captain)

Pride provides spur for depleted Blackburn and Rangers



Sutton, whose hamstring injury makes him doubtful for the final game of Blackburn's Champions' League campaign. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Rovers seek to cut their losses

BY PETER BALL AND KEVIN MCCARRA

AS IF Ray Harford, the Blackburn Rovers manager, needed any further reminder of his team's unhappy trip to Moscow, snow and a chill wind arrived in East Lancashire yesterday. The absence of Batty and Le Saux, who begin two-match European suspensions for their brawl in Russia, is a more painful reminder as Blackburn try to achieve their first win in the European Cup Champions' League, against Rosenborg, at Ewood Park tonight.

With Hendry also suspended after being shown his second yellow card of the campaign against Spartak Moscow, Bohinen and McKinlay ineligible, Pearce and Wilcox injured and Sutton doubtful with a hamstring injury, the loss of the two England midfield players has left Harford with only ten outfield players with first-team experience, making team selection a simple business.

"I've had to scratch around to find a team plenty of times before — at Colchester [United] and Fulham," Harford said. "But not for such a big game."

Blackburn, unlike Rosenborg, who can still qualify as runners-up in group B, have nothing at stake but their pride. The desire to gain their first win and salvage some self-respect from what has been a dreadful initiation into the highest level of European competition cannot be ignored, however, and Harford is eager to use the game as a springboard for the second half of the season.

"We are trying to build our season," he said yesterday. "We need a concentrated run in the league to get back up into a European spot, so this is another game to use to get some togetherness."

Blackburn's record suggests that the last thing they would want is to get back into Europe, but Harford insisted that one point and one goal from five games does his side little justice.

"It has been a great experience for everybody, and I think we are all better for the new experiences and the new challenges," he said. "There were games when we could have got something more out of them than we did, particularly the two home games, but also in [Legia] Warsaw."

Harford is also hoping that some of the fringe players will relish this opportunity to make their mark. "You can only look on the positive side."

Harford said. "What do they say — that adversity is someone's opportunity? Even if they don't get on the field, one or other of the young men on the bench may look at being involved in a European Champions' League match as a chance to further their career, and it will be a great opportunity for Matty Holmes and Nicky Marker. I hope they take it."

Champions' League tables 42

Marker will have a rare outing, probably as Warhurst's partner in a makeshift central defence, with Berg reverting to full back. Holmes is likely to line up in central midfield, with Gallacher coming back after injury to play wide on the left.

With their chance of qualifying for the European Cup quarter-finals gone, the remaining points at stake in group C mean little to Rangers but they do still have a point to prove. For their last fixture, against Borussia Dortmund at the Westfalenstadion this evening, Walter Smith's team, however, has spurned all the gung-ho rhetoric about pride and self-respect.

That kind of bellicose talk had preceded the return leg with Juventus last month, after Rangers had been thrashed 4-1 in Turin, but the bravado could not spare them a 4-0 defeat at Ibrox. This time, Smith has spoken mainly about the hope that his side can give a more polished performance than it has so far done in taking the two points from five previous Champions' League games that ensure it will finish bottom of the group.

The Rangers captain, Richard Gough, freely admitted that they are now principally concerned with the domestic form required to ensure a return to the European Cup in a year's time, but feelings would be soothed by a result in Dortmund that hinted future campaigns might be more successful.

To that end, paradoxically, Rangers will probably risk fielding Gascoigne, McCall and Gough even though each has already been booked and will carry forward a suspension to next season should he be shown a yellow card this evening.

With Matthias Sammer and Júlio César doubtful through illness, and Jürgen Kohler suspended, Dortmund scarcely have a recognised defender available to them, but this apparent vulnerability comes when their position as runners-up in the group is already impregnable. There was, however, a faint danger to the game going ahead as temperatures dropped yesterday.

Everton fix up reserve match for Ferguson

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

DUNCAN FERGUSON could be back playing football tomorrow night if Everton get their way at the delayed judicial review today. The Scottish courts yesterday put off the hearing into Ferguson's 12-match ban but Everton are so confident of success that they have arranged a reserve match against Newcastle United for tomorrow.

The Goodison Park club is expecting that the Scotland international's ban — which has seven matches still outstanding — will be suspended until early in the new year.

Joe Royle, the Everton, will almost certainly throw him into the Pontins League match at Goodison to give him urgent match practice. He said: "Obviously, if all goes well with Duncan's appeal, it will be a chance to give him match practice. We are very grateful to Kevin Keegan for helping us out and agreeing to help us out at short notice."

Mark McGhee, the Leicester City manager, was last night offered a substantial salary increase to stay at Filbert Street. McGhee, 38, is wanted by Wolverhampton Wanderers to replace Graham Taylor, the former England manager, who resigned last month, but Leicester's last-ditch effort to hold on to McGhee may still not be enough to head off the lure of Molineux.

McGhee discussed his future with Martin George, the Leicester chairman, yesterday before leaving without comment to "sleep" on his decision, but it is understood he was again refused permission to speak to Wolverhampton.

Last night Leicester officials were said to be "hopeful" McGhee would stay at Filbert Street, although Wolverhampton are still likely to at match any financial offer.

Ronnie Ekelund, 22, the Denmark international, yesterday completed his loan move to Birmingham City from Barcelona. The midfield player was due to appear in a testimonial game at Barrow last night and could make his debut for Birmingham their first division match with Watford at St Andrew's on Saturday.

Birmingham have agreed to pay Barcelona £50,000 to keep Ekelund on loan for the rest of the season with a view to a permanent deal, worth £350,000, providing he proves his full recovery from a back injury.

"He's an international player who showed at Southampton last season that he can perform in the Premiership," Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said. "We know he'll be hungry to do the business for us because he wants a long-term contract."

Ned Zelic is poised for a return to Germany after four unhappy months with Queens Park Rangers. Ray Wilkins, the Rangers manager, is negotiating a £1-million transfer with Eintracht Frankfurt for the sale of the Australia international.

Rangers beat off opposition from Blackburn, Middlesbrough and Sheffield Wednesday to sign Zelic for a club-record £1.3 million from Borussia Dortmund, but he failed to establish himself even after recovering from a knee operation that restricted his chances.

Bolton Wanderers yesterday completed the signing of Scott Sellars, the midfield player, from Newcastle United for £750,000. Sellars, 30, is expected to play in the FA Carling Premiership match against Liverpool at Burnden Park on Saturday.

"It's very disappointing but things have just not turned out the way we hoped," Wilkins said. "Virtually from the day he arrived in this country Ned has not been happy and subsequently fund it impossible to settle. Ned's form was not what we know he is capable of and I know only too well that, if you are desperately unhappy off the pitch, your on-pitch performance reflects that."

Allan McGraw, the Morton manager, was comfortable and stable in hospital last night after suffering a mild heart attack. McGraw was taken to Inverclyde Hospital in Greenock when he felt unwell.

Scotland seek to fill void

BY MARK SOUSTER

THE Scottish Rugby Union (SRU) is expected to announce today the formation of a development side to provide an extra tier of representative competition for players outside the international squad.

The team is likely to be managed by Roger Baird, the former Scotland wing, and is intended to help fill the void between club and international rugby where Scotland is represented at senior and A team level. As yet no fixtures have been arranged.

Jim Telfer and Duncan Paterson, respectively the director and convenor of rugby at the SRU, have been the driving force behind the initiative that both feel will enable Scotland to compete more effectively on the international stage.

Meanwhile, the much criticised inter-district championship begins, belatedly today, when, weather permitting, the Scottish Exiles, the reigning champions play Edinburgh at Richmond. These are uncertain times for the Exiles, who do not know whether they will be allowed to play in the European Cup if, as seems, Scotland opts for district representation, and whose existence is being called into question.

The Exiles include six internationals, but are without six others. The absence of Cronin, Reed, Smith, Walton, Townsend and Sharp would be a handicap to any side. Edinburgh field two capped players, Scott Hastings and Stuart Reid.

Tonight's other fixture is at Kirkcaldy between North and Midlands.

FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL): Detroit 27 Chicago 7.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Boston 121 Miami 120 (OT); Denver 85 Detroit 82.

CRICKET

TOUR MATCH: Canberra (one-day match) Prime Minister's XI v West Indians. No play — rain.

CYCLING

WORLD RANKINGS: 1, L Jalabert (Fr) 3,162pts; 2, T Rominger (Switz) 2,386; 3, M Indurain (Sp) 2,338; 4, J Museeuw (Bel) 1,363; 5, A Zuelle (Switz) 1,357; 6, C Chiappucci (It) 1,276; 7, E Berzin (Russ) 1,261; 8, A Olano (Sp) 1,098, 9, F Casagrande (It) 1,068; 10, A Tchmil (Ukr) 1,020; 11, P Richard (Switz) 964; 12, R Virenque (Fr) 847; 13, M Fondriest (It) 874; 14, V Bismov (Russ) 856, 15, L Armstrong (US) 836; 16, R Sorensen (Den) 784; 17, G Bugno (It) 731; 18, M Bartoli (It) 726; 19, S Della Santa (It) 713, 20, M Sciandri (GB) 709 Selected: 42, C Boardman (GG) 535

FOOTBALL

Monday's late results

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Sheffield Wednesday 4 Coventry City 3.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: League cup: First round: Postponed: Hyde v Marine. President's Cup: First round: Postponed: Ashton United v Buxton.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Dr Martens Cup: First round: First leg: Worcester 3 Stourbridge 0

FA TROPHY: Third qualifying round: Second replays: Bishop Auckland 3 Witton 1 aet; 1-1 after 90 minutes.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Chelsea 1 Oxford Utd 1.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Newcastle 4 West Bromwich 0; Tranmere 3 Birmingham 2; Wolverhampton 0 Everton 1. Second division: Mansfield 3 Bradford 5. Postponed: Grimsby v York.

FA YOUTH CUP: Second round: Leeds 0 Middlesbrough 1; Gillingham 1 Woking 3; Bristol 2 Barnstead Athletic 1; Ipswich 0 Walsall 0.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Taunton 2 Paulton 1

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Portsmouth RN 1 Bemerton Heath Harlequins 4.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): New York Rangers 5 Anaheim 1

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: Lacoste British amateur championships: First round: J Fensley bt W Surlees 11-15, 15-5, 15-3, 15-0; C Danby bt D Watkins 15-10, 15-8, 15-12; G Barker bt A de Cadenet 15-3, 15-5, 15-2; J Prenn bt J Acheson Gray 15-3, 15-9, 18-15, R Owen Browne bt C Bridgeman 15-4, 15-7, 15-1. Second round: R Owen Browne bt C Bridgeman 15-4, 15-7, 15-1, M Hue Williams bt G Hewitt 15-0, 15-1, 15-2; A Smith-Bingham bt M Hayward 15-10, 15-8, 15-9

REAL TENNIS

LEAMINGTON: Camkin Doubles Trophy: Semi-finals: P and B Holland bt J Snow and P Muddyman 6-4, M and N Hyde bt H Dalton and C Harcourt, 6-3. Final: M and N Hyde bt P and B Holland 6-5.

SNOOKER

FRANKFURT: German Open: First round: A Drago (Malta) bt M Price (Eng) 5-1; J Wattana (Thailand) bt G Wilkinson (Eng) 5-3; M Bennett (Wales) bt D Harold (Eng) 5-1; R Lawler (Eng) bt T Griffiths (Wales) 5-0; K Doherty (Ire) bt D Reynolds (Eng) 5-3; J Parrott (Eng) bt M Clark (Eng) 5-2; D Morgan (Wales) bt B Sneddon (Scot) 5-4; J Higgins (Scot) bt C Small (Scot) 5-2; S Hendry (Scot) bt J Swail (N Ire) 5-2; N Bond (Eng) bt W Thorne (Eng) 5-0; P Ebdon (Eng) bt Y Merchant (India) 5-2.

TENNIS

MUNICH: Grand Slam Cup: First round: B Black (Zim) bt T Muster (Austria) 7-6, 2-6, 6-1; B Becker (Ger) bt C Pioline (Fr) 6-1, 6-7, 9-7; J Eltingh (Holl) bt M Chang (US) 7-6 6-3

GOLF

SONY WORLD RANKINGS: 1, G Norman (Aus) 22.14pts, 2, N Price (Zimb) 18.87, 3, B Langer (Ger) 15.60, 4, E Els (SA) 14.83; 5, N Faldo (Eng) 14.58; 6, C Montgomerie (Scot) 13.85, 7, C Pavin (US) 13.54; 8, F Couples (US) 10.96; 9, M Ozaki (Jap) 10.88; 10, S Ellenglon (Aus) 10.50; 11, T Lehman (US) 9.83; 12, J M Olazabal (Sp) 9.21; 13, S Torrance (Scot) 8.32, 14, L Janzen (US) 8.27, 15, V Singh (Fiji) 8.16; 16, L Roberts (US) 8.06; 17, D Love III (US) 7.73; 18, P Jacobsen (US) 7.53; 19, M McCumber (US) 7.39; 20, B Crenshaw (US) 7.26.

Other British: 37, I Woosnam (Wales) 5.55; 53, M James (Eng) 4.63, 54, D Gilford (Eng) 4.62; 55, B Lane (Eng) 4.46; 73, H Clark (Eng) 3.72; 85, D Clarke (N Ire) 3.40; 98, P Baker (Eng) 2.73

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Dublin has no cause for delight

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

DION DUBLIN yesterday admitted his moment of glory was wrecked by Coventry City's 4-3 defeat by Sheffield Wednesday. The former Manchester United striker showed all the qualities that persuaded Coventry to pay £2 million for his services by grabbing a hat-trick in the FA Carling Premiership match at Hillsborough.

After Dublin put his side ahead three times — taking his tally for the season to nine goals in 12 league games, Coventry's benevolent defence contrived to let their lead slip each time before Mark Bright grabbed the late winner.

"It's very disappointing to score a hat-trick and lose. We worked so hard but let it slip with silly mistakes and a lack of concentration." Dublin, who is reported to be the target for a £3 million transfer to Middlesbrough, said.

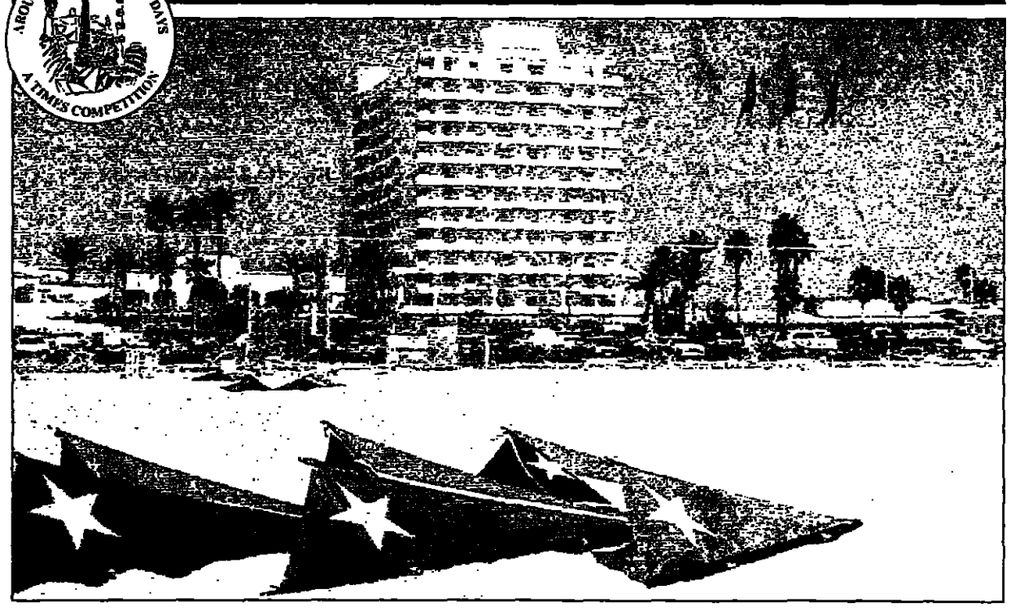
The defeat means Coventry have taken just one point from their past 11 matches, and leaves Ron Atkinson's side entrenched at the bottom of the Premiership alongside Bolton on nine points.

"It means everything to a striker to get a hat-trick, but it's a much better feeling if you win," Dublin said.

Wednesday were meanwhile celebrating the end of a miserable run at Hillsborough by claiming only their second league victory at home since beating Blackburn on the opening day of the season.

"I am just glad we scored one more than they did," David Pleat, their manager, said.

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Huntington is not far from Anaheim where Disneyland Park and the new Indiana Jones adventure is. As the prize includes a rented car, you could also visit San Diego, Palm Springs, the Redwood National Park or, over the border in Nevada, Las Vegas.

DEPARTURES: The prize winner can go between Jan 1 and Mar 28, or April 11 and 30, 1996. Times readers can book anytime during 1996 at 10% discount. The cost of today's holiday is £674, down from £749, per person.

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Q. Which actor plays the main male character in Baywatch?

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TOMORROW: WIN A WEEK'S HOLIDAY IN LAS VEGAS

Olympic athletes opposed to sports academy

By John Goodbody

JOHN MAJOR'S plans for a single academy of sport were yesterday opposed by Great Britain's Olympic competitors, who would prefer to see the £100 million of National Lottery funds pumped primarily into regional training centres.

The Sports Council has been charged by the Government with carrying out its wish for an academy, probably on a green-field site in the Midlands, where elite competitors in a large range of sports would live and train full-time.

However, after the consultation document on the academy was published by the council yesterday, the athletes' commission of the British Olympic Association made clear its reservations about the plans, which have been modelled on the over-praised Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) in Canberra.

Gavin Stewart, who chairs the commission, said that the British Olympic competitors in Barcelona would prefer a network of regional centres. "We see certain cities supporting six or seven sports. It would be wrong to have one elite place for one sport. We also question the selectivity of only having certain sports being eligible to use the academy.

"We do not think the answer is a big centre where everybody goes and stays on scholarships and which caters for all sports."

Stewart, an Olympic oarsman, accepted that there was a need for a "hub", where centralised records would be kept, but did not think modelling the academy on the AIS was the answer. "As Greg Searle [the 1992 rowing Olympic gold medal-winner] has pointed out, if you model the academy on the AIS, which was built in 1983, then you are already 15 years out of date when the British academy is completed."

Austrian blames court for early exit from Grand Slam Cup

Muster's ire surfaces after defeat by stand-in

From Stuart Jones, tennis correspondent in Munich

THOMAS MUSTER has yet to learn the refined art of losing with dignity. Not that he has had much practice in a year during which he has collected a dozen tennis titles, almost twice as many as any of his peers, and been beaten in only 18 of his 104 matches.

He is the French Open champion but yesterday, after being knocked out in the first round of the Grand Slam Cup, he took on the air of a rebellious teenager. He contemptuously dismissed the slick indoor surface on which the event is being staged here and succeeded in ridiculing only himself.

Typically aggressive and ebullient on court, the demeanor of the Austrian was no less gruff off it. "There are just two shots here," Muster, 28, snapped, "the serve and the return. Everything else is useless. The problem is keeping the ball in play. It is impossible to play controlled tennis.

"The balls are the hardest you can dream of. There will be around 2,000 aces this week but no long rally. Whether that is beautiful tennis, I think the crowd will have to do without it this week. Unless something extraordinary happens, it will be a Becker-Sampras final."

Had his accusations been less wild and his response more magnanimous, he might have earned some sympathy. Nevertheless, for less than an hour and a half's work, he pocketed $100,000 (about £65,000), the excessively lavish reward for first-round losers, and $250,000, the even more sumptuous bonus for winning a grand slam event.

He merited the praise heaped upon him after the clay court season, during which he manufactured an unbeaten sequence of 40 matches, and for his recovery from a savage injury which threatened his career.

Six years ago, a drunken driver pinned him underneath the rear of his car and severed the ligaments in his left knee.

Until he conducts himself more graciously, though, neither his fellow professionals nor the spectators will warm to him. Inside the Olympiahalle they have scarcely had the chance anyway. Four times he has qualified for the lucrative bonanza and on each occasion his elimination has been instant.

His sour reaction might have been exasperated by the comparatively lowly stature of his opponent. Byron Black was not brought into the field of 16 unti Saturday night when Andre Agassi let it be known that he was not prepared to risk aggravating his injury, even though the least he would have gained was $350,000.

The organisers, though doubtless aggrieved by Muster's comments, were appeased by Black's 7-6, 2-6, 6-1 victory. A native of Zimbabwe who learnt the game by playing barefoot with his brother in their father's avocado plantation, he is the first beneficiary of the Grand Slam Development Fund to qualify for the tournament.

Each year a donation of $2 million is administered by the International Tennis Federation for the benefit of needy youngsters around the world. The sum and the cause, though worthy and honourable, is also used conveniently as a defence against the criticism of the total prize money which is three times as high.

Black was 15 when he attracted attention by winning the All-African junior championships in the Ivory Coast. The ITV subsequently paid for him to compete in the junior Grand Slam championships.

Known more for his expertise in doubles, he earned his place as "an alternate" at the US Open where he submitted to Pete Sampras in the quarter-final. His next opponent will be Boris Becker, who almost ruined Muster's earlier prediction when he toyed with defeat against another understudy.

Becker, the winner of the ATP tour championship finals in Frankfurt three weeks ago, would have been the main attraction even if his German compatriot, Michael Stich, had not belatedly withdrawn through injury. His survival is crucial if capacity crowds are to be maintained in the spacious arena.

The tension rose, therefore, when Cedric Pioline was within two points of going through. Becker, characteristically, unleashed a barrage of aces to escape from the perilous position, broke the Frenchman with a flashing forehand and went on to win 6-1, 6-7, 9-7.

Results 45

WOLFGANG RATTAY



Becker celebrates after making a crucial breakthrough against Pioline

Prost appears to rule out a racing return

By Oliver Holt

ALAIN PROST'S restless search for fulfilment in the wake of his four Formula One world championship titles came to the fore again yesterday when the McLaren-Mercedes team announced that it had secured the Frenchman's services as part of its Technical Group.

McLaren's habitual reluctance to impart information had led most to assume that Prost had remained part of the team anyway, since he tested the car at Silverstone earlier this year. He was considering a comeback as a race driver, then, but now it appears his role will be confined to testing and advising the team's drivers, Mika Hakkinen and David Coulthard.

Prost ruled out a return to competition when he appeared at Jérez, in southern Spain, yesterday, where Coulthard was having his first run in the car since leaving Williams-Renault at the end of last season. "Racing is all in the past," Prost said. "I now have a new role, a new job and I just hope that Mika will be OK for the first race."

Prost, who won three of his titles with McLaren, has ruled out returns before and then changed his mind. It is still possible that, if Hakkinen does not recover from the injuries he sustained before the Australian Grand Prix in time for the first race of the new season, on March 10, he will be tempted again.

But yesterday he would speak only of the new role assigned him. "It will be more than just test-driving the car," he said. "I will be evaluating the car because, when I speak to the drivers, I want to know what they are talking about. I hope it is going to be an advantage for McLaren."

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 44

CAPERNAITE

(c) An inhabitant of Capernaum. Hence (with reference to *John, vi*, 52) a controversial designation for a cannibalistic believer in transubstantiation. "Cardinal Humbert was carried so far as to interpret the phrase [This is my body] in the grossest Capernaitic manner."

CRABSKUIT

(a) A small open fishing-boat with sails, from the Dutch *krabbe* a crab + *schuit* a boat.

CLART

(c) Sticky or claggy dirt, mud, filth. Scottish and northern dialect. Of this and related words, the origin is unknown. It must have been long in spoken use, for the compound verb *beclart* occurs in the 13th century.

CONIUM

(a) The umbelliferous genus to which the common hemlock, *Conium maculatum*, belongs. The hemlock or its extract as a drug. From the Greek *kōneion* hemlock.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Rd8! Rxd8 (1 ... Qxd8 2 Qg7 mate) 2 Qf6+ Kg8 3 Bc4+! Qxc4 4 Qg7 mate. Also full marks for 1 Rd7 Qxd7 2 Qxe5+ Kg8 3 Bc4+ with mate to follow.

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Radio choice

Man's world once a week

This Happy Breed. *Radio 4 FM, 10.00am.*

There is a lot of leg-pulling and helpless laughter when the Rotarians of Harrogate meet once a week. They talk rubbish, one of them says, as a means of masking their affection for one another. But they obviously talk sense, too; one of their aims is to encourage the ideal of service to the community. Nonetheless, reporter Jennifer Holden wonders aloud whether Rotary is just an elaborate excuse for men to be together, or perhaps a unique form of therapy for the more harassed among them. Rotary is staunchly male in its membership. "Ladies," one brave soul ventures, "are much more interested in clothes, cooking, and babies." How on earth did Jennifer Holden resist registering a protest?

Monsieur Pamplemousse Investigates. *Radio 4, 12.25pm.*

Michael Bond's novel is pure whimsy, even Wimsey. Pamplemousse is as amateur a sleuth as Dorothy L. Sayers's Lord Peter, though infinitely less polished and cerebral. Instead of his lordship's valet called Bunter, the Frenchman has a talking bloodhound called Pommes Frites. Bond's novel has been serialised by Alick Rowe. Episode one is all disaster. The planned launching of a new edition of a restaurant guide has to be abandoned when someone nobbles the computer programmed to select the nation's best eating place. Pamplemousse is deputed to find the saboteur. A colourless character, he is colourlessly played by Gorden Kaye. Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. **4.00am** Clive Warren **6.30** Chris Evans **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Lisa I'Anson, including at **12.30-12.45** Newsbeat; and at **1.15** The Net **2.00pm** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mark Goodier, including at **5.30-5.45** Newsbeat; and at **6.15** The Net **7.00** Evening Session **9.00** Lee and Herring **10.00** Mark Radcliffe **12.00** Wendy Lloyd

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. **6.00am** Sarah Kennedy **6.15** Pause for Thought **7.30** Wogan **9.15** Pause for Thought **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Debbie Thrower **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Jim Lloyd **8.00** Fisher's Folk Steps **8.30** Mrs Ackroyd Explores Her Roots, new six-part series on the "folk laureate" **9.00** Macgregor's Horizons (4/7) **9.30** Nigel Ogden **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme **8.35** The Magazine, incl at **10.35** Euronews; and at **11.00** News; Natural History **12.00** Midday with Mair, incl at **12.34pm** Moneycheck; and at **1.15** Entertainment News **2.05** Ruscoe on Five, incl at **3.45** Entertainment News **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide, incl at **5.45** Entertainment News **7.00** News Extra **7.20** Trevor Brooking's Football Night **10.05** News Talk, with Mike Baker **11.00** Night Extra, incl at **11.15** The Financial World Tonight **12.05am** After Hours **2.05** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Warr **7.00** Simon Bates **10.00** Jonathan King **12.00** Tommy Boyd **2.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** Scott Chisholm and Lowri Turner **7.00** Sean Bolger **9.00** Moz Dee **10.00** James Whale **1.00-6.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. **5.00am** Newsday **5.30** Europe **6.00** Newsday **6.30** Europe **7.00** News **7.15** *Middlemarch* **7.30** Discovery **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Drama: *The Wizard of Oz* **8.45** The Secret Life of a Song **9.00** News in German **9.15** Andy Kershaw **9.45** Sport **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** BBC English **10.45** *Middlemarch* **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Meridian **12.00** News **12.05pm** Business **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Composer of the Month **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Megamix **3.00** News in German **3.15** Greenfield Collection **4.00** News **4.15** World Today **4.30** News in German **5.00** Europe **5.30** Business **5.45** Sports **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** News in German **7.00** News **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Faith **7.30** Multitrack **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.05** Business **9.15** Britain **9.30** Purcell's London **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** The World Today **10.45** Sport **11.00** News **11.10** Pop Short **11.15** Sport **11.45** From Our Own Correspondent **Midnight** Newsdesk **12.30am** The Secret Life of a Song **12.45** Britain **1.00** News **1.10** Press Review **1.15** New Ideas **1.35** Portrait of the Artist **1.45** Country Style **2.00** Newsday **2.30** Sport **3.00** News **3.15** Sport **3.30** Assignment **4.00** Newsdesk **4.30** Europe

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Nick Bailey **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Concerto **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Newsnight **6.30** Sonata **7.00** Gardening *Forum* (r) **8.00** Evening Concert **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Sally Peterson

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono's Breakfast Experience **9.00** Richard Skinner **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm** Nicky Horne **7.30** Paul Coyte **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00-6.00am** Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Tallis (Lamentations of Jeremiah); Tchaikovsky (Serenade for strings); Bach (Concerto in C); Beethoven (Piano Sonata in C minor, Op 13, Pathétique); **8.05** *Symphony Series*: Mozart (Symphony in D, La finta giardiniera); Rodrigo (Fantasia para un gentilhombre)
9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini. Honegger (Pastorale d'été); Tavener (The Lamb); Beethoven (Violin Sonata in E flat, Op 12 No 3); Haydn (Symphony No 6 in D, Le Matin)
10.00 Musical Encounters, with Mary Miller. *Artist of the Week*: Catherine Bott, soprano, performs Torke (Four Proverbs); **10.20** Biber (Sonata representativa); Falla (Harpsichord Concerto); Schumann (Five Poems of Queen Mary Stuart); Schoenberg (Verklärte Nacht)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Schumann, orch Ansermet (Adagio and Allegro, Op 70); orch Mahler (Symphony No 3 in E flat, Rhenish) (r)
1.00pm Concert Hall. Joseph Kalichstein, piano, Jaime Laredo, violin, Sharon Robinson, cello, perform Beethoven (Allegretto in B flat; Piano Trio in B flat, Archduke)
2.00 Fairest Isle: Britten's Radio Music. Paul Hindmarsh introduces a selection of music for 28 radio productions, composed by Benjamin Britten between 1937 and 1947
3.00 Midweek Choice, with Susan Sharpe. Shostakovich (Novorossiysk Chimes, The Fire of Eternal Glory); Trad (The Seeds of Love); Dohnányi (Serenade in C)
4.00 Choral Vespers, from Westminster Cathedral
5.00 The Music Machine. Caroline Swinburne meets the composer Peter Sculthorpe
5.15 In Tune, with Natalie Wheen. Includes at **5.50** Britten (Nocturnal after John Dowland)
6.00 BBC Rush Hour Concert, live from the Wigmore Hall, London. Boris Berezovsky, piano, plays Hindemith (Suite, 1922); Stravinsky (Suite, Petrushka, excerpts)
7.00 Ezio. The King's Consort under Robert King performs Handel's three-act opera. With James Bowman in the title role, Dominique Visse as Emperor Valentiniano, Susan Gritton as Fulvia
9.45 Cinema 100: Alchemists of Light. Dean Semler, cameraman on *Mad Max II*, *Dead Calm* and *Waterworld*, discusses how he films water
10.05 The BBC Orchestras. BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Tadaaki Otaka performs Tippett (Triple Concerto). With Levon Chilingirian, violin, Simon Rowland-Jones, viola, and Philip de Groote, cello
10.45 Night Waves. A first night review of the Royal Shakespeare Company's new production of Byron's verse play, *Cain, a Mystery*
11.30-12.30am Voices. Iain Burnside accompanies Katarina Karneus, mezzo, in works by Fauré, Bizet, Granados and Poulenc

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) **6.00** News Briefing, incl Weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, incl **7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **7.25, 8.25** Sport **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Midweek, with *Times* columnist Libby Purves
10.00-10.30 News; This Happy Bread (FM only). See Choice
10.00 Daily Service (LW only)
10.15 This Sceptr'd Isle (LW only)
10.30 Women's Hour introduced by Jenni Murray. Serial: *Clean Break* by Val McDermid. Read by Clare Higgins (3/13)
11.30 Gardeners' Question Time. Pippa Greenwood, Geoffrey Smith and Anne Swithinbank answer questions posed by visitors to Syon Park Garden Centre in Middlesex (r)
12.00 News; You and Yours, with Chris Choi
12.25pm Monsieur Pamplemousse Investigates See Choice **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Thriller Playhouse: Ben Sees It Through, by J. Jefferson Farjeon. With Tony Robinson and Leslie Phillips
2.45 Treasure Islands, presented by Michael Rosen. Belinda Lang and Chris Powling pick the best of the new paperbacks for children
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brehan. Rebecca Nicholson meets the estate agents who have turned negative equity houses into film locations
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Gambaccini reviews Diane Keaton's directorial debut, *Unstrung Heroes*
4.45 Short Story: Andrzej, the Polish Poet, by Carl Tighe. Read by Jack Klaff
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Kit and the Widow's Sound of Music. Second in the series of this new music quiz. With guests Alan Freeman, James Bowman, Jilly Cooper and Jeremy Sams
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Points of Departure, with George Alagiah
7.45 Out of Africa: Africa to America — a Journey of Law. Professor Patricia J. Williams with the first of three personal interpretations of journeys out of Africa
9.00 Costing the Earth
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Inside Mr Enderby, by Anthony Burgess (10/12)
11.00 Trust. A six-part satire about NHS Trusts (2/6)
11.30 Beachcomber . . . By the Way (FM only). Comedy with Richard Ingrams, John Wells, John Sessions and June Whitfield (r)
11.30-12.00 Today in Parliament (LW only)
12.00 News incl **12.27** Weather
12.30am The Late Book: Sucking Sherbert Lemons by Michael Carson. Read by David Holt (3/10)
1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Maxey, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

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At last, some straight talking about Aids

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

Powerful, cool and intelligent, last night's **Fine Cut: The End of Innocence** (BBC2) was the best programme yet made about Aids in this country. Working from a book by Simon Garfield, Nigel Evans took a clear line and made a highly plausible argument — that against a background of inherent homophobia, British public health advice on Aids has been misdirected at the general population, with the effect of abandoning gay men, and ultimately conniving at their deaths. "In Britain," said last night's narrator, "heterosexual Aids has probably never existed." From a pie-chart representing the few thousand non-gay Aids cases, a tiny sliver of 183 may be attributed to contamination through heterosexual sex. By this reckoning, all those public information films with Jesse Birdsall looking thoughtfully down a girl's blouse were a cruel waste of money.

Evans's film was frank and serious and laudably contained the anger many gay men feel on this subject. What it never addressed, however, was an important what-if — what if the Government had advised the general population that Aids was "a gay plague"? This, after all, was what the majority of people probably wanted to hear. If homophobia is so rife on the streets, in the changing rooms, and in the House of Commons, surely the effect would have been catastrophic?

But this argument is to sanction lies, and is not the point. Evans's case was that Aids was "de-gayed" for simple reasons of British distaste about buggery. Which must look odd from an international perspective, incidentally, since buggery — like democracy and cricket — is something we are thought to have invented.

It was astonishing to look back to the first days of the Aids story. News bulletins included a priest wiping his chalice between communion sips and footballers advised not to cuddle when they scored goals. It was astonishing — but then it always is — to hear the licensed bigotry of MPs, speaking of a "self-inflicted" illness, and cautioning the National Lottery against subsidising "luvvies". Such sickness causes people to send obscene death threats to Ian McKellen. Meanwhile the attempts of gay men in Brighton to inform each other about Aids risks are seized by police. "Don't die of ignorance," as they used to say. What an unmitigated disaster.

After such a thought-provoking documentary, *Network First*'s **A Peace for the Wicked** (ITV) seemed stylish but empty, and terribly, terribly slow. I am only guessing, but its director, Kevin Sim, may have watched some Yuris Podnieks films. Too much time was spent watching a blue sky, or an old bearded Polish woman attracting the attention of her chickens by tapping a saucepan; but I suppose the idea was to impress us with the reality of the land, since land was what the story was about.

In journalistic terms, the story was a good one. In 1945, when the Big Three met at Tehran to slice up the world, Churchill told Stalin over cocoa and shortbread that Poland ought to be shifted to the left. He demonstrated this simple idea with three matchsticks on a table. As a result of this godlike pronouncement, Silesia, which had been German for centuries, was suddenly Polish. And as the Poles were moved in to the new territories, the Germans were hounded out. Nine million Germans were evacuated altogether. Two and a half million of them died — many in re-commissioned Nazi concentration camps.

Sim's film was torn between agony and elegy, and was possibly too beautiful for its own good. Every time I thought "Good, now we're motoring," the next scene would involve a clock ticking, and a peasant woman's lined face staring out of a window at a field of wheat. Did the Poles take revenge on the Germans when they got the chance? Well, the unhelpful verdict of the programme was: opinions differ. The historian Timothy Garton Ash was on screen too briefly for someone who appeared to know the facts. But he usefully quoted W.H. Auden, and set the tone for the film: "I and the public know/ What all schoolchildren learn./ Those to whom evil is done/ Do evil in return."

Channel 4's **Without Walls** gets on my nerves, I admit it. Watching it dittle about with bits of ideas is like watching a child play with its dinner. But the current mini-series about great meals in art — with the general title *Unpeeled* — is a pleasant surprise and last night's analysis of the Last Supper took in some proper art history, and food history, and garnished it all with some clips from a Mel Brooks movie, in which Brooks (in lowly tunic, with tray and notepad) got the attention of Jesus and the apostles with "Does everybody want soup?"

For obvious liturgical reasons, the meal is generally represented in art as a meagre affair of red wine and crisps, rather like a Christmas party in the last decade of the 20th century. The real Passover meal of the period, however, would involve a bedouin-style roast lamb, and bitter herbs. Historians agreed that the master stroke of Christ was to adapt Dionysian ideas for the Eucharist, so that at every meal his disciples would remember him not only in their hearts but in their digestive tracts as well.

European artists went on to depict the Last Supper in accordance with table etiquette of the time, thus leaving an invaluable record of eating habits, and attitudes to salt. Was the historical Last Supper really a "knees-up"? I still don't quite believe it, although the Mel Brooks bits certainly helped. "Are you all together?" he barked. "Or is it separate checks?"

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (76780)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (47198815)
9.10 Kilroy (s) (7445475)
10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (3370481) **10.05 Can't Cook, Won't Cook** (s) (7088542)
10.30 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (s) (78070)
12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (1298405) **12.05pm Pebble Mill** with Ross King (s) (5064525) **12.50 Regional News** (Ceefax) and weather (64903070)
1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (55148)
1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (96453419) **1.50 Hawkeye: The Traitor** starring Lee Horsley and Lynda Carter (s) (3816475)
2.35 Holiday. Milan, Las Vegas, French alps and St Ives (r) (Ceefax) (s) (5819186) **3.05 Timekeepers.** Quiz (6040148)
3.30 Ants In Your Pants (s) (9466728) **3.50 ChuckleVision** (r) (s) (9446964) **4.10 Get Your Own Back** (Ceefax) (s) (1171254) **4.35 The Queen's Nose** (Ceefax) (s) (1442983)
5.00 Newsround (Ceefax) (3876490) **5.10 Blue Peter** (Ceefax) (s) (8241419)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (304964)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (457)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (709)
7.00 This Is Your Life introduced by Michael Aspel (Ceefax) (s) (8902)
7.30 Here and Now presented by Sue Lawley (Ceefax) (s) (693)
8.00 Paul Daniels' Secrets. Variety and illusions, including limbo dancer Cheryle, James Dimmare and his doves, and jugglers Clockwork (Ceefax) (s) (633506)
8.50 Points of View. Anne Robinson presents viewers' opinions of BBC programmes (Ceefax) (s) (780341)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (4167)
9.30 Keeping Up Appearances. Snobbery comedy with Patricia Routledge, Clive Swift. A nautical supper takes a not entirely unpredictable turn to the farcical (r) (Ceefax) (s) (29186)
10.00 Inside Story Special: Inside 25 Cromwell Street. Mae and Stephen West, the oldest surviving children of Fred and Rosemary, tell of growing up with parents who managed to hide their deeds and insulate their children from the outside world. (Ceefax) (s) (707457)



Jimmy Nail sings his hits (10.50pm)

10.50 Jimmy Nail — Somewhere In Time... Somewhere on Tour. Jimmy Nail in concert at the Sheffield Arena earlier this year (s) (135341)
11.50 FILM: Crossing the Mob (1988) starring Jason Bateman, Frank Stallone, Maura Tierney and Patty D'Arbanville. A New Yorker finds himself drawn into a life of crime after he accepts an apparently legitimate job offered by a mob boss. Directed by Steven Stern (424438)
1.25am Weather (2003484)

ANGLIA

As London except: **12.55** Coronation Street (2657506) **1.25** Home and Away (44746341) **1.55-2.20** A Country Practice (86474902) **2.50-3.20** Gardening Time (5800438) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (2769896) **6.30-6.50** Anglia News (554273) **10.40** Champions League Highlights (130896) **11.40** Tales from the Crypt (1135544) **12.10am** War of the Worlds (2203587) **1.05** Hollywood Report (4436113) **1.35** Shift (4104668) **2.25** America's Top Ten (8361200) **2.50** ITV Sport Classics (4270823) **3.20** The Little Picture Show (5589688) **4.20** Nite Bites 4 (31830674) **4.30** The Time... the Place (16303)

CENTRAL

As London except: **1.55-2.20** A Country Practice (86474902) **2.50-3.20** Gardening Time (5800438) **3.25-3.30** Central News (8387896) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (2769896) **6.25** Central News and Weather (951902) **6.45-6.50** Life Line (154322) **10.40-11.40** Crime Stalker (130896) **3.35am** Jobfinder (447991) **5.20** Asian Eye (1101804)

GRANADA

As London except: **12.55-1.25** Shortland Street (2657506) **1.25** Home and Away (89618993) **1.50** Vanessa (38517993) **2.20** Videofashion (15322983) **2.50-3.20** Coronation Street (5800438) **5.10-5.40** A Country Practice (2769896) **6.25-6.50** Granada Tonight (942254) **10.30** Grimace News (152273) **10.40** Champions League Highlights (130896) **11.40-12.40am** Hunter (456831) **3.35-4.35** Jobfinder (7321858)

HTV WEST

As London except: **12.55-1.20** Shortland Street (5981877) **1.20** Coronation Street (44747070) **2.50-3.20** Cooking at the Academy (5800438) **5.10-5.40** A Country Practice (2769896) **6.30-6.50** HTV News (554273) **10.45-11.40** Street Legal (149544) **3.35am** Jobfinder (7321858)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except: **2.50-3.20** The Really Helpful Programme (5800438) **6.30-6.50** Wales Tonight (554273) **10.30** HTV Wales News and Weather (143525) **10.45-11.40** European Club Rugby - The Heineken Cup (149544)

MERIDIAN

As London except: **12.55** Coronation Street (2657506) **1.25** Home and Away (44746341) **1.55-2.20** A Country Practice (86474902) **2.50-3.20** Shortland Street (5800438) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (2769896) **6.00** Meridian Tonight (949167) **6.20-6.50** Put It to the Test (855254) **10.30** Meridian News and Weather (152273) **10.40** Champions League Highlights (130896) **11.40** Good Advice (113544) **12.10am** War of the Worlds (2203587) **1.05** Hollywood Report (4436113) **1.35** Shift (4104668) **2.25** America's Top Ten (8361200) **2.50** ITV Sport Classics (4270823) **3.20** The Little Picture Show (5589688) **4.20** Nite Bites 4 (31830674) **4.30** The Time... the Place (16303)

WESTCOUNTRY

As London except: **12.55** Coronation Street (2657506) **1.25** Home and Away (44746341) **1.55-2.20** The Young Doctors (86474902) **3.25-3.30** Westcountry News (8367896) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (2769896) **6.00-6.50** Westcountry Live (200506) **10.30** Westcountry News; Weather (152273) **10.40-11.40** Crime Stalker (130896) **3.35am** Jobfinder (7321858)

YORKSHIRE

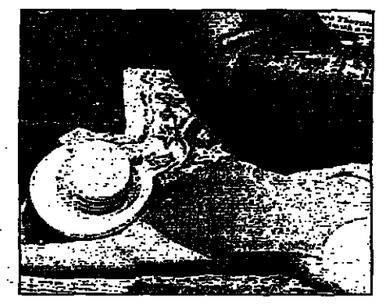
As London except: **9.55-10.00** Calendar News and Weather (5088362) **12.20pm-12.30** Yorkshire: Calendar News and Weather / Bilsdale: Network North (8814877) **12.55** Coronation Street (2657506) **1.25** Home and Away (44746341) **1.55-2.20** A Country Practice (86474902) **2.50-3.20** Shortland Street (5800438) **3.25-3.30** Yorkshire: Calendar News / Bilsdale: Network North (8387896) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (2769896) **5.55** Calendar / Network North (2769896) **6.20-6.50** Blockbusters (855254) (319896) **6.20-6.50** Blockbusters (855254) (5489) **2.30** Target (34216) **3.30** Parliament (33533) **4.30** CBS News (85303) **5.30-6.00** ABC World News (84849)

S4C

Starts: **7.00** The Big Breakfast (78099) **9.00** Film: The Great Waltz (36709) **10.30** Brookside (58341) **11.30** Putting Art in Its Place (28425525) **11.55** Dispatches (60844436) **12.00pm** House to House (83696) **12.30** Widget (92032) **1.00** Slot Meithrin (71186) **1.30** Film: Ladies in Retirement (15731815) **3.10** The Montel Williams Show (2382525) **4.00** Think Tank (490) **4.30** Dosh (902) **5.00** 5 Pump. Rownd A Rownd (6779693) **5.15** 5 Pump: Fiail (3888235) **5.30** Fifteen To One (254) **6.00** Newyddion (283490) **6.15** Heno (284693) **7.00** Pobol Y Cwm (145709) **7.25** Dan Ond Cell (161612) **7.55** Rygbi: Cwpan Rygbi Ewrop Heineken (420631) **9.00** Newyddion /News (7877) **9.30** Llefior (51815) **10.30** Brookside (93273) **11.00** Northern Exposure (744273) **11.55** Dispatches (554231) **12.40am-1.40** Secret Lives (6997656)

BBC2

6.00am Technology Season.
7.00 Breakfast News. (Signing) (9339728)
7.15 Lassie (2031544) **7.40 Swat Kats** (r) (7953186) **8.05 It'll Never Work** (r). (Ceefax) (s) (2314761) **8.35 The Record** (s) (7754167) **9.00 The Battle for Cassino** (3531148) **9.50 Prue Leith's Tricks of the Trade** (r) (3305780) **10.00 Playdays** (s) (8438083)
10.25 FILM: Something In the City (1950, b/w). Comedy starring Richard Hearne, directed by Maclean Rogers (8988902)
11.40 The Fugitive (b/w) (r). (Ceefax) (4719983)
12.30pm Working Lunch (33324) **1.00 Johnson and Friends** (r) (s) (48188902) **1.10 Spot** (r) (26370099) **1.20 Movie Magic** (r) (88632544) **1.40 Glynn Christian's Entertaining Microwave** (s) (15726983) **1.55 A Helping Hand** (15716506) **2.10 Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased)** (r) (9973032)
3.00 News (Ceefax) and weather; **Westminster with Nick Ross.** (Ceefax) (s) (2098709) **3.55 News** (Ceefax) and weather (9813051)
4.00 Today's the Day (s) (322) **4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook** (s) (506) **5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show.** With the Judds. (Ceefax) (s) (4339525) **5.35 Unspeakable Verse** (398438) **5.50 Holiday Outings.** Fuerteventura (570051)
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation. (Ceefax) (s) (222728)
6.45 FILM: The Amazing Colossal Man (1957, b/w). A sci-fi effort about a US Army colonel who is accidentally exposed to an overdose of nuclear radiation. Directed by Bert I. Gordon (5979877)
8.00 Slice of Life: Rock 'n' Roll and Ratatouille. (Ceefax) (2964)
8.30 University Challenge. Charing Cross Hospital v Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh (Ceefax) (s) (1099)



Inner city sun seekers relax (9.00pm)

9.00 Modern Times: Lido. (Ceefax) (s) (132877)
9.50 My Secret Life: Not My First Choice of Career. Why a man with no previous criminal inclinations started to steal from the supermarket where he worked. Last in the series. (Ceefax) (s) (915341)
10.00 Grace Under Fire. (s) (99457)
10.30 Newsnight. (Ceefax) (497728)
11.15 Cities of the Future. Seattle — Micro City (s) (342964)
11.55 Weather (799148)
12.00 The Midnight Hour with Andrew Neil. Political chat show (s) (54484)
12.30am-6.00 The Learning Zone

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CHOICE

Modern Times: Lido
BBC2, 9.00pm

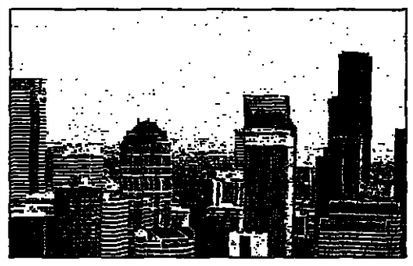
Lucy Blakstad's last film in the *Modern Times* series was an affectionate study of the British weekend. Here she turns her sensitive eye to another aspect of the nation at leisure. Last summer Londoners were able to escape the hottest temperatures of the century at an open-air swimming pool grandly titled the Brockwell Park Lido. Blakstad's camera roams among the roasting bodies and comes away with a wealth of diverting material. The film seems unstructured but this is deceptive. Blakstad knows a telegenic character when she sees one and among her subjects are two top civil servants, an unemployed man who goes to the Lido because he cannot afford a holiday and a lesbian couple who get hitched in a poolside "marriage".

The Real Holiday Show
Channel 4, 8.30pm

It is bickering all the way as David Miles and his girlfriend Alison go backpacking in India. She accuses him of behaving like a schoolteacher (which he is) and is only happy when he falls ill and she can take control. They are still arguing when they turn up, *Blind Date*-style, in the studio to tell Gaby Roslin all about it. A sojourn on the French Riviera for Angie and Margaret, two lesbians from Glasgow, proves to be no more harmonious. Nobody can accuse this programme of not living up to its title. These are real holidays with a vengeance. Adrienne and husband Mark are an unusual couple in that she is 56 and he is 33. But the age gap does nothing to spoil the enjoyment of a country and western week in Prestatyn.

Slice of Life: Rock 'n' Roll and Ratatouille
BBC2, 8.00pm

Having last week offered a staunchly middle-class view of British food in the 1950s, this engaging series turns to the counter-culture. It was the decade which discovered the teenager and youthful taste was fed by such transatlantic imports as the coffee bar and the Wimpy. Ray Gosling, as ever an acute observer of social trends, was in the middle of this revolution and remembers it for its informality. For the first time young people could eat in public, using their fingers and keeping their elbows on the table. The programme goes on to chart the extraordinary explosion in Italian restaurants and the achievement of the cookery writer Elizabeth David in bringing Mediterranean cuisine to the conservative British dining table.



Seattle — city of the future (BBC2, 11.15pm)

Seattle — Micro-City
BBC2, 11.15pm

Welcome to the city of the future, though whether the vision pleases is another matter. Seattle is prosperous, forward-looking, dynamic. It is the city of Boeing and Microsoft and its economy is beamed not inwards to the rest of the United States but outwards across the Pacific to the markets of Asia. Bill Gates's Microsoft is a workplace where bright young people in T-shirts happily work 80 to 100 hours a week. So what is the catch? That Seattle seems to attract an unusually high incidence of serial killers may be just bad luck. Jonathan Raban, who moved to the city from England, offers a deeper critique, fearing that computer technology will banish people to their homes to lead lonely and desocialised lives. **Peter Waymark**

CARLTON

6.00am GMTV (8876964)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (s) (8954964) **9.55 London Today** (Teletext) (5088362)
10.00 The Time... The Place (s) (2723631)
10.35 This Morning (28767457) **12.20pm London Today** (Teletext) (8814877)
12.30 News and weather (teletext) (2672815)
12.55 Home and Away (Teletext) (2657506) **1.25 Coronation Street** (r) (Teletext) (44746341) **1.55 Shortland Street** (96474902) **2.20 Vanessa: I'm A Vampire** (Teletext) (s) (18322983) **2.50 Material World: The Art is a Lonely Hunter** (5800438)
3.20 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (8388525)
3.25 London Today (Teletext) (8387896)
3.30 Alphabet Castle (s) (3016612) **3.40 Wizadora** (6284693) (s) **3.50 The Story Store** (3027728) **4.05 Animaniacs** (8428254) (r) (Teletext) (s) **4.15 TIGS** (731983) **4.45 Bad Influence** (s) (1433235)
5.10 After 5 with Caron Keating. Sonya Saul talks to Lenny Kravitz. (Teletext) (2769896)
5.40 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (678186)
5.55 Your Shout Viewers air their views (582896)
6.00 Home and Away (r). (Teletext) (525)
6.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (554273)
6.50 Wheel of Fortune. Game show in which the spin of a wheel could net a fortune for one of the three contestants (s) (553419)
7.20 Champions League — Live. Blackburn Rovers' hopes were dashed in early November when they drew at home to Legia Warsaw but tonight they are playing against Rosenborg of Denmark for pride — and money. Introduced by Bob Wilson. Plus news of Glasgow Rangers playing in Germany against Borussia Dortmund



Alf (Bryan Mosley) gets his gong (9.30pm)

9.30 Coronation Street. Alf Roberts (Bryan Mosley) has an appointment at Buckingham Palace. Betty Williams (Betty Driver) accompanies him (Teletext) (14254)
10.00 ITN News at Ten and weather (Teletext) (86983)
10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (152273)
10.40 Magnum: Missing in Action. Magnum faces an intriguing case involving a spy afraid to come in from the cold and a woman with ESP. Starring Tom Selleck (r) (130896)
11.40 Champions League Highlights presented by Jim Rosenthal. (456631)
12.40am The Little Picture Show looks at the new Michael Douglas film, *The American President* (1163620)
1.45 The Album Show (s) (6878282)
2.40 Hollywood Report (s) (4363587)
3.05 America's Top Ten (r) (s) (80645910)
3.30 Profile (r) (s) (99115649)
3.35 Sport AM (r) (7321858)
4.35 McGilloway's Way: The Swilly Harvest (54061262)
5.00 Vanessa (r) (Teletext) (s) (90823)
5.30 ITN Morning News (59939). Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.30am Ulysses 31. Cartoon series (r) (29235)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (78099)
9.00 FILM: The Great Waltz (1972) starring Horst Buchholz. A made-for-television biopic of Johann Strauss Jr. Directed by Andrew L. Stone. (214419)
11.30 Putting Art In Its Place. Sculptor David Kemp, who uses recycled scrap iron (r) (1070)
12.00 House To House. Political magazine (83896)
12.30pm Sesame Street. The guest is Robin Williams (69457) **1.30 Lift Off** (r) (s) (24631)
2.00 FILM: The Ratings Game (1984) directed by and starring Danny DeVito. A made-for-television spoof about a hopeful television producer held back by lack of experience. (Teletext) (8612)
4.00 Think Tank. Team quiz. (Teletext) (s) (490)
4.30 Fifteen To One. Knockout quiz.(s) (902)
5.00 Ricki Lake. People who admit to lying in order to keep a loved one. (Teletext) (s) (7350544)
5.45 Terrytoons and **Murun Buchstansangur** (675099)
6.00 Crystal Maze (r). (Teletext) (s) (54821)
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (150457)
7.55 The Slot. Viewers' video soapbox (472525)
8.00 Brookside. The news of Ron's death spreads quickly through the Close. (Teletext) (s) (7032)



Glasgow girls on the French Riviera (8.30pm)

8.30 CHOICE The Real Holiday Show. (Teletext) (s) (6167)
9.00 Dispatches. How the world's most toxic man-made substance is seeping into the food chain from leaking chemical dumps, inadequate incinerators and illegal industrial processes. (Teletext) (408322)
9.45 The Cutter. A teenager wants to follow in the footsteps of his father, but dad is a contract killer (r) (Teletext) (s) (924964)
10.00 Northern Exposure. Off-beat American comedy set in Alaska. (Teletext) (s) (411148)
10.55 Queen Live at Wembley. The band recorded in 1986, featuring many of their hits (s) (93508877)
12.30am Moviewatch (r). (Teletext) (s) (7449842)
1.05 The Shooting Gallery. Showcase for new makers of short films, tonight's theme being *Families From Hell*. **The Disco Years.** A gay teenager comes to terms with his sexuality (9865007) **1.40 Fugitive Love.** A young woman suffers a broken heart (7058216) **2.00 Alpsee.** A visually stunning exploration of childhood memories (4431571)
2.15 Saxa. A story recalling a family history where the uncertainty of memory clouds the truth (4427378) **2.35 The Immortal ZugZwang Game.** A family man is forced to regain his identity through a game of chess (4266620) **3.00 Reunion De Family.** A meeting of three generations of men from three phases of Chile's recent history. In Spanish, subtitled (s) (80644281) **3.25 Daddy's Little Bit Of Dresden China.** Puppet animation telling a story of sexual abuse of children (r) (76332649)
3.40 Smart Alex. A family prepare to take their summer holiday by the seaside (r) (81115804) **4.00 Floating.** A father is convinced a flood is coming (r) (8322007). Ends at **4.45**

SATELLITE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**

SKY ONE

7.00am The DJ Kat Show (80235) **7.30** Syber Squad (73970) **8.00** Mighty Morphin (17877) **8.30** Press Your Luck (16148) **9.00** Court TV (30728) **9.30** Oprah Winfrey (20308) **10.30** Concentration (29612) **11.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (88490) **12.00** Jeopardy (10964) **12.30pm** Designing Women (69726) **1.00** The Waltons (57983) **2.00** Geraldo (62964) **3.00** Court TV (6709) **3.30** Oprah Winfrey (8871709) **4.20** Undun (3980070) **4.40** Shoot! (5095254) **5.00** Star Trek (84051) **11.00** Law and Order (234893) **12.00** Late Show (8300007) **12.45am** The Untouchables (6828858) **1.30** Smouldering Lust (90484) **2.00** Hit Mix Long Play (7250849)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour.
6.00am Sunrise (9123273) **10.30** ABC Nightline (27254) **1.30pm** CBS News (93099) **2.30** Parliament (84002) **3.30** Parliament (9371) **5.30** Tonight (77877) **8.30** Newsmaker (7815) **11.30** CBS News (52859) **12.30am** ABC News (15281) **1.30** Tonight (54991) **2.30** Target (34216) **3.30** Parliament (33533) **4.30** CBS News (85303) **5.30-6.00** ABC World News (84849)

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Showcase. (13993) **8.00** Alice Adams (1935) (66544) **10.00** Jane's House (1993) (63544) **12.00** The Further Adventures of the Wilderness Family (1978) (76167) **2.00pm** Sky Riders (1976) (18001) **4.00** At Long Last Love (1975) (55693) **6.00** Jane's House (1993) (41506) **7.30 El Nens Week In Review** (7157) **8.00** Philadelphia (1993) (90612) **10.00** Red Sun Rising (1993) (418322) **11.50** Bare Exposure (1993) (911693) **1.20am** Wilder Napalm (1993) (121649) **3.05** Crackers (1984) (5262823) **4.30-6.00** Sky Riders (1976) (80858)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm Ace in the Hole (1951) (7235) **6.00** The Band Wagon (1953) (68051) **8.00** The McKenzie Break (1970) (70806) **10.00** Commando (1985) (888806) **11.40** Racing with the Moon (1984) (892780) **1.30-3.40am** To Kill a Mockingbird (1962) (72593216)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am My Favourite Wife (1940) (11525) **8.00** The Prince and the Pauper (1972) (81761) **9.00** A Christmas Carol (1979) (57167) **10.00** Partners (1956) (61186) **12.00** Mr Lucky (1943) (74709) **2.00pm** Operation Mad Ball (1957) (18083) **4.00** The Prince and The Pauper (1972) (61612) **5.00** A Christmas Carol (1979) (3099) **6.00** Two Much Trouble (1994) (93709) **8.00** Hear No Evil (1993) (98254) **10.00** A Home of Our Own (1994) (425612) **11.45** Terror in the Night (1993) (825411) **1.20** Incident in a Small Town (1993) (487842) **2.55-4.55** Betrayal of Trust (1993) (88448465)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold from 10pm to 4am.
6.00am Umbrella Tree (45719685) **6.30** Muppet Babies (33721032) **7.00** Winnie the Pooh (36584490) **7.30** Ducktales (36503525) **8.00** Chip 'n' Dale (29966322) **8.30** Wonderland (29965693) **9.00** Fraggle Rock (29989273) **9.30** Pooh Corner (83704877) **10.00** Dumbo (33745612) **10.30** Quack Attack **11.00** Disney (36512273) **12.00** FILM: Mary of Scotland (33732148) **2.00pm** Wonderland (70532983) **2.30** Umbrella Tree (62520341) **3.00** Fraggle Rock (70511490) **3.30** Winnie (62532186) **4.00** Quack Attack (62511693) **4.30** Ducktales (62517877) **5.00** Chip 'n' Dale (70523235) **5.30** Danger Bay (62531457) **6.00** Tazan (62521070) **6.30** Dinosaurs (62512322) **7.00** Flipper (69894457) **8.00** Sinbad (70529419) **8.30** The Tombstoms (70531254) **9.00-10.00** Voyager (69883341)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Aerobics (95322) **8.30** Olympic Magazine (69815) **9.00** Motors (92009) **10.00** Football (88815) **12.00** Euroski (63631) **12.30pm** Basketball (89167) **1.00** Live Snooker (15070) **3.00** Snooker (7693) **3.30** Equestrianism (67186) **4.30** Rally (64186) **5.30** Nunchaku (53544) **6.30** Eurosport News (7709) **7.00** Live Snooker (43341) **9.00** Boxing (29148) **10.00** Supercross (22235) **11.00** Equestrianism (49525) **12.00-12.30am** News (32200)

SKY SPORTS

7.00am Sports Centre (45709) **7.30** Racing News (57544) **8.00** Wrestling (36235) **9.00** Aerobics (65099) **9.30** Sports Unlimited (52254) **10.30** Snowboard Tour (54983) **11.00** Boots 'n' All (33964) **12.00** Aerobics (45235) **12.30pm** Golf (253187) **3.30** Quiz (2877) **4.00** Powerboats (4512) **4.30** Speed and Beauty (7316) **5.00** Wrestling Superstars (3877) **6.00** Sports Centre (1761) **6.30** Rugby (5341) **7.00** Basketball (60213885)



Denzel Washington, Tom Hanks *Philadelphia* (Sky Movies, 8pm)

9.25 Sports Centre (478235) **9.30** Rugby (74235) **10.00** Sports Centre (46964) **10.30** World Soccer (55612) **11.00** Basketball (786475) **1.30am** Cavalcade (98303) **2.30-3.00** Sports Centre (63945)

SKY SPORTS GOLD

10.00pm Rugby (2385167) **10.30** World Cup Classics: Argentina v Peru 1978 (4018631) **12.00** Blood, Sweat and Glory (3611007) **12.30-1.00am** Second Innings (8609026)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

7.00pm Inside Space (4884631) **7.30** Sci-Fi Buzz (2337051) **8.00** Martian Chronicles (6876883) **1.00am** Inside Space (1621113) **1.30** Sci-Fi Buzz (8943910) **2.00-4.00** Martian Chronicles (2381113)

TLC

9.00am Toycraft: Jewellery (9414631) **9.30** Eat Your Greens (1330612) **10.00** Heart of the Country (6891612) **10.30** The Arrangement (9410815) **11.00** Only Human (1938893) **12.00** Trauma (9401167) **12.30pm** Jimmy's (1341728) **1.00** Eat Your Greens (1947099) **1.30** Toycraft: Jewellery (1340099) **2.00** Short, Sharp Shock! (6892347) **3.00** Heart of the Country (73273411) **3.30-4.00** Fishing (8966631)

UK GOLD

7.00am Angels (1940186) **7.30** Neighbours (1929693) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (9400436) **8.30** EastEnders (9409709) **9.00** The Bill (9483761) **9.30** The Sullivans (1332070) **10.00** All Creatures Great and Small (1925877) **11.00** Dallas (1988341) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (9403525) **12.30pm** Neighbours (1343186) **1.00** EastEnders (1949457) **1.30** The Bill (1342457) **2.00** The Sullivans (88349436) **2.25** Are You Being Served? (3423341) **3.00** Angels (7338099) **3.30** Eldorado (8935761) **4.00** Casualty (95260490) **5.05** Larry Grayson's Generation Game (41587780) **6.15** Kenny's Comic Cuts (6726896) **6.25** EastEnders (2979544) **7.00** Eldorado (7311780) **7.30** Taxi (8951709) **8.00** FILM: Porridge (57669898) **10.00** The Bill (6526457) **10.35** The Best of Top of the Pops (2880506) **11.15** Special Branch (5359341) **12.20am** Dr Who (2565303) **12.50** Public Eye (1311179) **1.50** Triangle (31518688) **2.20** Shopping

TCC

6.00am Casper (83032) **7.00** Pink Panther (61322) **7.30** Ready or Not (80457) **8.00** Valley High (55542) **8.30** Casper (6537761) **8.45** Dinobabies (5565544) **9.00** Tiny TCC (8216254) **12.30pm** Tiny TCC (83886) **2.30** Happily Ever After (1726) **3.00** Sonic (9683) **3.30** Pink Panther (6273) **4.00** California Dreams (5780) **4.30-5.00** Valley High (1964)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Blue (91525) **6.30** Count Duckula (23089) **7.00** Beetlejk (1939438) **7.05** Teenage Turtles (3984877) **7.45** Rugrats (5554190) **8.15** Doug (8400382) **8.45** Rocko's Modern Life (5779457) **9.00** Alvin and the Chipmunks (56341) **8.30** Pee Wee's Playhouse (81525) **10.00** Banana Sandwich (44070) **11.00** Children's BBC (31506) **12.00** Rocko's Modern Life (43877) **12.30pm** Aaahh!!! Real Monsters (85341) **1.00** Ship to Shore (35322) **1.30** Mighty Max (84612) **2.00** Speed Racer (1032) **2.30** Galaxy High (1902) **3.00** Count Duckula (8457) **3.30** Pet Shop (2849) **4.00** Teenage Turtles (2254) **4.30** Rugrats (8438) **5.00** Clarissa (5612) **5.30** Wishbone (2490) **6.00** Doug (2831) **6.30** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (3983) **7.00** Ferris Bueller (2148) **7.30-8.00** Sister Sister (9167)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Human/Nature (8952438) **4.30** Charlie Brave (8941322) **5.00** Man on the Rim (7318693) **6.00** Invention (8962815) **6.30** Beyond 2000 (1880893) **7.30** Deadly Australians (8942051) **8.00** Connections 2 with James Burke (7328070) **8.30** Top Marques (7314877) **9.00** Seawings (5776186) **10.00** Subst Submarines (5779273) **11.00** Voyager (1392984) **11.30-12.00** Nature Watch (8697896)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM: Devil Girl From Mars (3517065) **1.30pm** Honey West (1337525) **2.00** The Saint (6696157) **3.00** Scotland Yard (7321167) **3.30** Man From Interpol (8960457) **4.00** FILM: Hobson's Choice (7325983) **6.00** Death Valley Days (8958341) **6.30** The Critic (8940883) **7.00** The Critic (7313148) **7.30** The Protectors (8946877) **8.00** The Saint (5750148) **9.00** Sapphire and Steel (1317273) **9.30** Dead of 21 (1318490) **10.00-12.00** FILM: Voyage of the Rock Aliens (1308525)

PARAMOUNT

8.00pm Entertainment (1896) **8.30** I Love Lucy (3631) **9.00** Bosom Buddies (86916) **9.30** Laverne and Shirley (72877) **10.00** Entertainment (44506) **10.30** Pigsty (53254) **11.00** Dr Katz (38411) **11.30** The Associates (41885) **12.00** Entertainment (18674) **12.30am** I Love Lucy (80303) **1.00** Bosom Buddies (41811) **1.30** Laverne and Shirley (32484) **2.00** Entertainment (79552) **2.30** Pigsty (61587) **3.00** Dr Katz (83007) **3.30-4.00** The Associates

UK LIVING

6.00am Agony Hour (7789099) **7.00** Magazine (6560341) **9.00** Bazaar (2462896) **9.30** Kate and Allie (5565146) **10.00** Hearts of Gold (1053896) **10.40** Bride of the Day (46570964) **10.55** Entertainment (21031693) **11.00** Young and Restless (3333964) **11.55** Delia Smith (5486896) **12.30pm** Brookside (58161886) **1.05** Kilroy (14546993) **2.00** Agony Hour (4449457) **3.00** Magazine (4189761) **4.00** Intatuvision UK (8828490) **4.30** Crosswits (7972254) **5.05** Joker's Wild (59786322) **5.30** Bewitched (8848254) **6.00** Esther (8845167) **6.30** Brookside (82300699) **7.05** Intatuvision UK (4101493) **7.35** Joker's Wild (3223308) **8.00** Young and Restless (4738761) **9.00** Cagney and Lacey (4756525) **10.00** Charlie's Angels (4751612) **11.00-12.00** Dangerous Women

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Wonder Years (1438) **5.30** Tintin (5544) **6.00** Batman (2457) **6.30** Catchphrase (3709) **7.00**

England draw strength from Atherton



Atherton: moral victory

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN PAARL

THE CELEBRATIONS may have been almost as prolonged as the famous innings itself but the assessing eyes and toothy grin of Michael Atherton showed no signs of it. The glazed expressions yesterday belonged to South Africans who could still barely comprehend what the England captain had done to them. On the morning after, it was increasingly clear that, as drawn Test matches go, this was one hell of a victory.

Like party hosts politely ignoring a gatecrasher, South Africa would like to pretend that Monday never happened. The nation had been ready to acclaim victory, Johannesburg, indeed, had turned out in force to do so, and Atherton had spoilt the plans. The solution was to change the subject and the Cape newspapers that greeted England here yesterday were full of the call-up of Jacques Kallis, a local boy, for the third Test in Durban next week.

Atherton's heroics, and those of Jack Russell, his faithful subaltern, were accorded lip service only. This will have delighted the man himself almost as much as the evident post-match anguish of Hansie Cronje, his opposite number, which manifested itself through an ungraciousness suggestive of just how much Atherton's disobliging batting had got under the opposition skin.

Having spent four weeks of this tour holed up in Johannesburg, where the crime statistics last week included a robbery at one of Nelson Mandela's properties, the England team would have flown south with relief whatever the outcome of the second Test at the Wanderers. But there was a spring in the step and a giggly buoyancy to the mood yesterday. I have seldom seen a winning team more upbeat, let alone one that has just escaped defeat.

The change of scene that met them, amid the beauty and relative tranquility of the Cape wine region, will have done nothing to lower such spirits before the first-class game against Boland, which starts here tomorrow. Atherton will be encouraged to sit the game out. Unlike some, he hardly needs the practice.

The mind still boggles in contemplation of his *tour de force*. It was an innings to set alongside the best of the generation, alongside and perhaps even above Brian Lara's 375, for the context bears no comparison. Unlike Lara, whose driving forces were personal, Atherton knew, almost from the moment he went in, that his wicket would cost England the game, that one mistake would be irreparable. On Sunday morning, he had met Bob Willis, a former England captain, on the ground. "Looks like we've got to bat for five sessions," Atherton said. "Yes, and you've got to bat for at least four-and-a-half of them," Willis replied, amplifying the general acknowledgement, not even disputed within his team, that Atherton alone is capable of such immense application.

That it comes naturally to him, in the same way that it did to Geoffrey Boycott, is not to belittle the achievement. Concentration is one thing; technical excellence over almost 500 balls something else again, and the sense of shock — best transmitted by Russell scurrying down the pitch to remonstrate — when he played and missed at Shaun Pollock half an hour from Monday's close, was indicative of his triumph. It was his first obvious mistake in more than four hours and perhaps the fourth or fifth of his innings.

Once or twice on Sunday, when Allan Donald attacked him with hostility, Atherton had been drawn into indiscretions. It was rare, but he did not forgive himself on such grounds, instead slapping the back of his bat like an angry schoolmistress. Then it was back to business, classically correct, rigorously judicious and, unfathomably, as alert and impressive in his eleventh hour as he had been in his first.

Such capacity for single-mindedness should not, in Atherton's case, be misinterpreted. This is no dull workaholic but a man of lively mind and diverse tastes. Russell will have marked Monday's achievement with an extra cup of sweet tea and an early night but Atherton, gregarious as ever, wound down in a Johannesburg café, his raucous laugh — not a thing of beauty — elaborating upon his feelings. Long may it last. England are lucky to have him, as leader and batsman, and he is enjoying both roles more than ever. He will enjoy it still more, however, if others can follow his example and, good captain that he is, he has wasted no time in pointing out how poorly his team played for most of the match.

Two areas are of the greatest concern: the No 3 position, now vacated beyond the point of return by Mark Ramprakash, and the form of the seam bowlers who are falling ever further behind Dominic Cork. There are undoubtedly troubles ahead but Atherton and his troops are in the mood to face the music and dance. A draw can be a wonderful thing.

Levett obituary, page 21
Sporting triumph, page 41
Adams included, page 41

Coach hints at England recall

Venables swayed by Ferdinand's striking claims

BY DAVID MILLER

THOSE impatient for the promotion of Les Ferdinand to the England football team may be gratified in the international match against Portugal at Wembley next Tuesday. This would not, however, indicate that Terry Venables, the coach, has doubts about Alan Shearer. Far from it.

Both are, of course, included in a largely predictable, increasingly stable, squad of 23, including three goalkeepers, announced yesterday. When selected, the first hurdle for Ferdinand, who continues to score prolifically for Newcastle United, will be to convince Venables that he is the established second XI centre forward. Becoming the first XI choice would be a further step for him.

Regretting that Uefa regulations for the European championship limits the squad to 20 plus a spare goalkeeper, thereby denying an exact set of reserves, Venables said yesterday: "Knowing for sure what is the second team is as important as knowing the first team. Injuries are always a possibility. This means I have to give Ferdinand his chance, soon, to confirm he's the acknowledged No 2. From there, he then has the possibility to show me he's a serious rival to Shearer."

SQUAD

D Seaman (Arsenal), T Flowers (Blackburn), I Walker (Tottenham); G Neville (Manchester United), R Jones (Liverpool), A Adams (Arsenal), S Howey (Newcastle), S Pearce (Nottingham Forest), G Le Saux (Blackburn), G Southgate (Aston Villa), T Sinclair (QPR), S Stone (Nottingham Forest), J Redknapp (Liverpool), D Platt (Arsenal), P Gascoigne (Rangers), R Lee (Newcastle), S McManaman (Liverpool), D Wise (Chelsea), L Ferdinand (Newcastle), P Beardsley (Newcastle), N Barmby (Middlesbrough), E Sheringham (Tottenham), A Shearer (Blackburn).

Venables is undecided whether this will be the moment to select Ferdinand. Yet the present squad, he emphasises, is unlikely to be disturbed unless somebody outside it plays consistently well. The door remains ajar for the likes of Paul Ince, who did himself no favours by missing the Umbro Cup tournament last summer, and Paul Merson.

"Those who are there certainly can't afford to say 'I've made it' and take a rest," Venables said. He intends to keep the squad oversize, as Alf Ramsey did in 1966 and 1970, until the deadline for naming the regulation number, ten days before the competition.

With Pallister suffering from a prolonged back problem, Howey seems the likely partner for Adams, as he was against Columbia in the opening international of the season. Besides the possible inclusion of Ferdinand, the main speculation will be whether Platt has done sufficient with Arsenal to earn his recall. This was doubtful, I thought, when I saw him against Manchester United ten days ago, though he scored a fine goal on Saturday against Aston Villa.

After Portugal, one of the more exciting of the European championship finalists, there are six matches remaining in which England can further develop: one a month at home from February, then two away, after a break, during the four weeks after the FA Cup Final for the final run-in. Croatia are the confirmed rivals for April; others depend on the draw, on Sunday week. Venables would not wish to play first-round opponents in these matches.

A visit to Sun City, a ten-hour flight but in approximately the same time zone, is a possible pre-tournament tour, with matches against South Africa and Zimbabwe.

In the more immediate future, Venables is scheduled to meet the Football Association to discuss his future, and the possible extension of his contract up to the World Cup finals in 1988, a route he has previously stated that he preferred to being considered for the post of director of coaching. This meeting indicates that the FA is confident that the many rumours continuing to circulate about Venables's financial dealings while the manager of Tottenham Hotspur are not likely to result in a situation that would compromise either him or them.

The FA would indeed be made to look foolish if it extended the contract and its coach were then charged with some offence but, yesterday, Venables remained cheerfully optimistic, adamant that he will continue to fight to clear his name from allegations made by Alan Sugar, the Tottenham chairman, and by two BBC *Panorama* documentaries. It is, of course, the BBC which would be embarrassed if the highly-charged accusations made by *Panorama* were shown to be unfounded. Venables says that he has written assurance from police that there are no criminal charges against him, and that his status as company director, said to be threatened, might be endangered only by some technical irregularity of which he is unaware.

He further claims that alleged documentary evidence against him, reproduced in newspapers, is either false or even forged. Putting the record straight will be lengthy and costly for him, but it is important for football's reputation that he is able to do so.

Meanwhile, he remains equally optimistic about the preparation of his team, against which there is a mounting campaign of criticism, as concerted as that against him personally. I share some of his optimism regarding the team. On the other hand, I like to believe that the personal campaign is based on grudges dating to the time when he first arrived at Tottenham, more than on serious indiscretions.

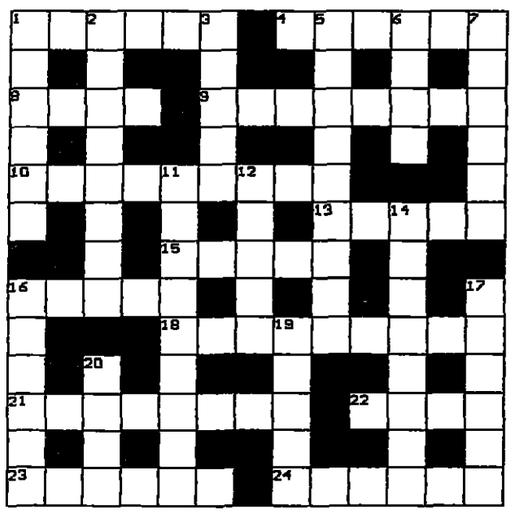
Simon Barnes, page 42
European farewells, page 45



Ferdinand's prolific form for Newcastle United may be rewarded by a place against Portugal at Wembley. Photograph: Ian Stewart

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 645



ACROSS
1 Line of sharp turns (6)
4 Utterance, talk (6)
8 Bargain; wood (4)
9 Lively, vigorous (8)
10 Meeting, concert halls (9)
13 Brown-fur marten (5)
15 Tibet/Kashmir/Pakistan river (5)
16 High priest, Moses' brother (5)
18 Pavement-edge block (9)
21 Fissure in glacier (8)
22 Curl; breeze (4)
23 Baggage; swimming costume (6)
24 Oom Paul —, Boer leader (6)

DOWN
1 Belt in which planets move (6)
2 Impressive splendour (8)
3 Plaster painting base (5)
5 Mount sacred to Muses (9)
6 Takes in; food (vulg.) (4)
7 Tight conferring group (6)
11 Standing team of experts (5-4)
12 Aircraft-detection method (5)
14 Turning into; suitable (8)
16 Curved-bill wader (6)
17 Guide; article (6)
19 Desolate, dismal (5)
20 (Girl's) admirer (4)

SOLUTION TO No 644
ACROSS: 7 Revert to type 9 Erosion 10 Boxer 11 Item 12 Phantasm 15 Anywhere 17 Kiln 19 Wafer 21 Terrace 22 Vituperation
DOWN: 1 Recovery 2 Genie 3 Stench 4 Combine 5 Lynx 6 Necromancer 8 Mexican wave 13 Animator 14 Therapy 16 Retort 18 Broth 20 Fits

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD NO 640
In association with BRITISH MIDLAND
ACROSS: 1 Havering 7 Blown 8 Scintilla 9 Ecu 10 Akin 11 Locker 13 Cogent 14 Anchor 17 Supper 18 Smug 20 Bow 22 Examiners 23 Brent 24 Espresso
DOWN: 1 Hosea 2 Veining 3 Rate 4 Nelson 5 Tower 6 Insular 7 Barking 12 Snippet 13 Cry-baby 15 Hamlets 16 Pedals 17 Sweep 19 Gusto 21 Pier

1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic or international network is M Walkingshaw, Bangor, Co Down.
2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND'S domestic network is B N Fletcher, Harrogate, N Yorks.
All flights subject to availability.

Fifa in a jam over World Cup draw

DESPITE the prospect of worsening strikes and transport turmoil, the lavish ceremony for the World Cup qualifying competition draw will take place as planned in Paris next Tuesday.

João Havelange, the president of Fifa, the world governing body, decided to keep to the draw on its scheduled date after talks in the French capital with tournament organisers and government representatives.

"It's going ahead," Keith Cooper, a Fifa spokesman at its Zurich headquarters, said. An estimated 2,500 people will be involved in the draw for the World Cup qualifiers. Those travelling from outside Paris face uncertain flight schedules coupled with a transport problems upon arrival. However, with French sporting and political prestige at stake, there seemed to be no immediate alternatives.

Jacques Chirac, the French President, is scheduled to assist in the draw at the Carrousel du Louvre. A record 173 teams have entered and the 1998 finals in France will have the biggest ever field of 32 squads. Fifa also plans a series of meetings starting at the weekend. These may be seriously disrupted if the strike and travel problems continue.

Bath and Wigan consider showdown

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

TONY HALLETT, the Rugby Football Union secretary, revealed yesterday that talks had taken place between the two codes about a proposed meeting between Bath and Wigan, the giants of English rugby union and league respectively.

The idea, which would consist of two matches — one to be played at Twickenham under union rules and another under league rules at a football ground in the North — is to establish the best club rugby team in England. The competition could be launched in May.

Hallett said: "I talked with Maurice Lindsay [of the Rugby Football League] in London about the idea on Monday. Neither of us has been approached officially, but both unions would wish to examine the implications of such matches before agreeing to them.

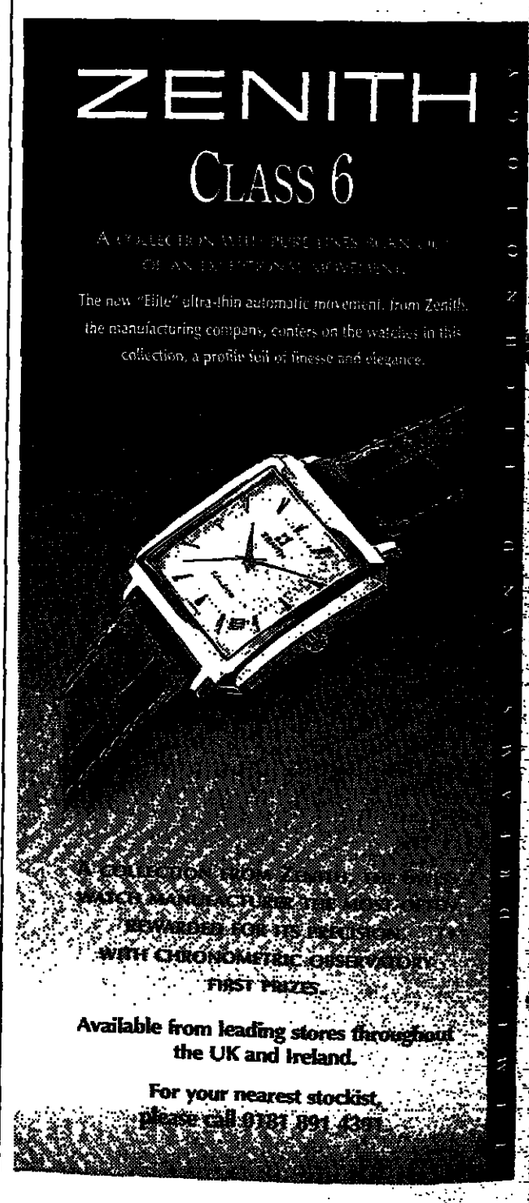
"We are not necessarily against the scheme, but insurance, safety, law and playing matters will need to be looked into. But both league and union are united in considering the scheme."

Each club could receive around £250,000 in gate receipts, television money and sponsorship. The only problem would be fitting the matches into the fixture-lists. Major John Quin, the Bath secretary, said: "I can confirm talks between the clubs have taken place. Everything revolves around television revenue. We would hope to attract substantial backing."

Jack Robinson, the Wigan chairman, said: "The biggest drawback will be fitting both matches into the calendar, but they would be tremendous contests for players and spectators."

Teams from the two codes have met twice before. In 1943, at Headingley, the Services union team played the Services league team under union rules and the league team won 18-11. The next year, the teams met at Odsal stadium, Bradford, and the league team again won, 15-10.

Rugby's revolution, page 44



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